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JOHNSONIAN GLEANINGS

BY

ALEYN LYELL READE.

PART I.

NOTES ON

DR. JOHNSON'S ANCESTORS AND CONNECTIONS
AND ILLUSTRATIVE OF HIS EARLY LIFE.

With Frontispiece and Seven Plates.

THE AUTHOR

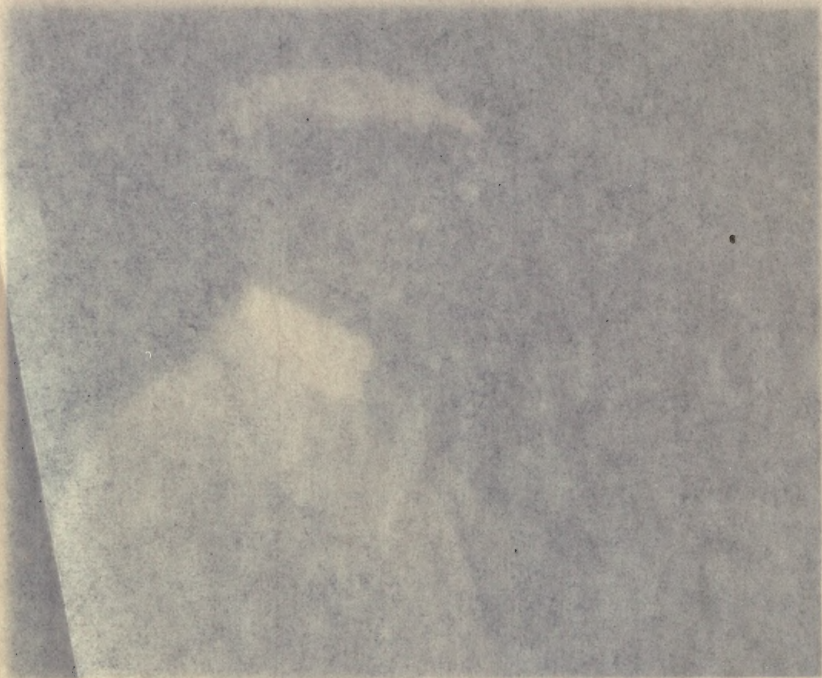
PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

FRANCIS & CO., 13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, E.C.

1909.

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FRONTISPIECE.



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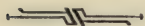
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PREFACE



The first thirty pages of this book consist of fifteen articles contributed to *Notes and Queries*, the first on 12 Oct., 1907, the last on 12 June, 1909, for permission to reprint which I owe thanks to the editor. The remaining pages are an expansion of a letter to *The Times*, with other new material. Much of the information is complementary to my large volume on 'The Reades of Blackwood Hill and Dr. Johnson's Ancestry,' privately printed in 1906. It is hoped that the seven unpublished portraits of members of the Johnsonian circle at Lichfield will add to the value of the work.

It is intended that this should be the first of a series of small volumes dealing with various obscure phases of Johnsonian biography. Future parts will be more definite in their scope, and probably will not have appeared elsewhere, either in whole or in part. Part II., which should appear in the summer of 1910, will have for its subject Francis Barber, the Doctor's negro servant, and will contain the fruits of much curious research.

Special attention is directed to the Index, in which considerable trouble has been taken to identify and date the numerous individuals mentioned in the text.

Only 350 copies have been printed, and no extra prints exist of any of the plates.

ALEYN LYELL READE.

Park Corner, Blundellsands,

August, 1909.

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FRONTISPIECE. THE AUTHOR.

From a Photograph by Mary Reade.

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DR. JOHNSON'S ANCESTORS AND CONNEXIONS.

SINCE I issued my privately printed work on 'The Reades of Blackwood Hill and Dr. Johnson's Ancestry,' in the June of 1906, I have collected some more notes in illustration of the Johnsonian section. My book was fortunate enough to win very high praise from a variety of critics, and I hope that these additional memoranda, slight though many of them be, may be considered worthy of record in the pages of 'N. & Q.'

Nathaniel Johnson.—As long ago as 6 Oct., 1855, T. G. L., of Lichfield, communicated to 'N. & Q.' a brief note (1 S. xii. 266) saying that he possessed a letter written by the Doctor's brother, Nathaniel Johnson, to his mother at Lichfield, in which he alluded to Samuel "scarcely using him with common civility," and expressed his intention to "go to Georgia in about a fortnight." Dr. Birkbeck Hill mentions this in his edition of Boswell (vol. i. p. 90, foot-note). Mr. A. C. Lomax, J.P., of Lichfield, a veteran Johnsonian who treasures many precious relics of the Doctor bequeathed to him by his father, the writer of the note alluded to, has kindly supplied me with a tracing of this most interesting letter, carefully made by Mrs. Lomax. Mr. Lomax believes that Dr. Birkbeck Hill, when staying at Lichfield, made a copy of the letter; but I am not aware that it has ever been printed before now* :—

M^r Johnson Bookseller
in
Lichfield.

HON^d MOTHER

I did not receive your letter soon enough Yesterday to send the Burton Shop Book by y^e Carrier but I will send it next Week & with it all y^e Bills that I can recollect to be Due either on Burton side or any where else. M^r Gresley owes Nothing besides y^e Bill due to my Father you will find it in M^r Gresleys Book I think y^e Books where

* Since this was set up in type I have learnt that the letter was printed (though not in full, and with some trifling errors) in *The Evening Standard* for 7 Oct., 1904, in an article on 'Dr. Johnson and Lichfield,' by the Rev. H. B. Freeman, Vicar of Burton-on-Trent.

y^e State*.....of Salmon, Bibliotheca Bis.....bound up in a Dark plain.....on y^e Back is for M^r Pincherbesides three or four Magazines.....Numbers of Stackhouse's History.....in y^e Shop both for Him M^r Wh.....of Egington M^r Philips owes Not..... They that want Magazines.....M^r Morrice he owes for a be.....M^r Nichols he owes for 3 befor.....M^r Huchinson M^r Whitam.....owes for an old Hudibras 2.....these live all.....Burton.....You may send to M^r Dymoke by ordering it to be left at M^r Townrows in Burton & to M^r Philips by ordering it to be left at M^r Shorthouses white Smith in Burton, I have neither Money nor Credit to buy one Q^r of paper, It is true I did make a Positive Bargain for a Shop at Stourbridge in which I believe I might have lived happily & had I gone when I first desired it none of these Crimes had been committed which have given both you & me so much trouble. I dont know if you ever denied me part of y^e Working Tools but you never told me you would give or lend them me. As to My Brothers assisting me I had but little Reason to expect it when He would scarce ever use me with common civility & to whose Advice was owing y^e unwillingness you shew^d to my going to Stourbridge. If I should ever be able I would make my Stourbridge friends amends for y^e trouble and charge I have put them to. I know not nor do I much care in what Way of life I shall hereafter live, but this I know y^e it shall be an honest one and y^e it cant be more unpleasant y^e some part of my Life Past, I believe I shall go to Georgia in about a fortnight, Cottons things I will send.

I thank you heartily for your generous forgiveness & your Prayers which pray continue. Have Courage my dear Mother God will bear you through all your troubles If my Brother did design doing any thing for me I am much obliged to him & thank him give my Service to him & my Sister I wish them both well, I am Dear

Mother your Affectionate
and obedient Son

Nath Johnson

Boswell described old Michael Johnson as afflicted with "a general sensation of gloomy wretchedness," and no phrase could better describe the state of mind indicated by this unhappy letter. If Michael trans-

* This omission, and those that follow, arise from the fact that one section of the letter is missing, having split off at the folds.

mitted "a vile melancholy" to his elder son, his younger son must have inherited at least an equal share of it. We have no knowledge of what Nathaniel Johnson's troubles were, but it is difficult to explain this letter except on the supposition that, while assisting his mother in the business, he had been discovered in some act of dishonesty. He says that, had his wish to start in business at Stourbridge not been thwarted, "none of these Crimes had been committed which have given both you & me so much trouble"; and declares that in whatever way of life he shall hereafter live, "it shall be an honest one." Finally, he thanks his mother for her "generous forgiveness." He appears not only to have considered himself badly treated by his brother, but also to have complained to his mother that she had not supplied him with a share of the working tools—possibly tools for book-binding.

The letter bears no date, but as he sends his service to "my sister" it must have been written after Samuel's marriage on 9 July, 1735. Nathaniel himself died in March, 1736/7, aged only twenty-four. There is also nothing to tell us where it was written, but from the internal evidence we should conclude that he was running a small branch of the business at Burton-on-Trent. The "Mr. Gresley" mentioned was no doubt one of the Gresleys of Drakelow, near Burton; he seems to have dealt before with Michael Johnson.

The reference to Stourbridge is of interest. His uncle Dr. Joseph Ford had lived there until his death in 1721; and his uncle Nathaniel Ford had also been a mercer in the town. At the date of this letter he probably had a cousin there; while Gregory Hickman, stepson of Dr. Ford and brother of Nathaniel Ford's wife, was a prominent townsman. Gregory Hickman had assisted Samuel Johnson in 1731; and we may safely include him among the "Stourbridge friends" whom Nathaniel Johnson hoped some day to repay for the trouble and expense to which he had put them. Probably old Mrs. Johnson dissuaded her son from his project of going "to Georgia in about a fortnight."

Namesakes of Michael Johnson.—In my book I showed (p. 258) that there was, during the period 1663–81, living at Trent-ham (where we know that the Doctor's father stayed in 1716) a shoemaker named

Michael Johnson, who had a son Michael baptized in 1667. Shakespearean students are, I believe, familiar with a Michael Johnson living at Stratford in the seventeenth century. T. J. M., of Stafford, pointed out some years ago in 'N. & Q.' (6 S. x. 465) that a Michael Johnson was Mayor of Chester in 1702. And from Britten's 'Old Clocks and Watches and their Makers,' 2nd ed., 1904, I learn that there was a Michael Johnson, of Barnard Castle, Durham, who was admitted to the Clock-makers' Company in 1687, one watch by him being dated about 1720. It is also worth noting that one Michael Johnson was married to Ann Hestin, of Stretton-upon-Dunsmore, near Rugby, on 15 Sept., 1746, at Lichfield Cathedral; and that a Samuel Johnson was married there, on 8 Sept., 1732, to Margaret Lewis.

Mr. B. Tachella, of Derby, points out to me that the Rev. Richard Johnson, who was vicar of St. Werburgh's in that town from 1608 until his death in 1629 (see J. Charles Cox's 'Churches of Derbyshire,' vol. iv. p. 174), had three sons: Richard, baptized in 1611; Edward, baptized in 1613; and *Michael*, buried in 1629. It was at St. Werburgh's that Samuel Johnson elected to marry the widow Porter in 1735; and Mr. Tachella is inclined to believe that he chose that church because of a kinsman's connexion with it over a century before. There is, however, no evidence of any family connexion between the Rev. Richard Johnson and Michael Johnson, of Lichfield, and the ignorance the Doctor expressed of his father's ancestry seems to negative the idea that he was influenced by any such tradition. Mr. Tachella tells me that Richard Johnson is mentioned by Cotton Mather in his 'Magnalia Christi Americana' (1702) as the head master of Derby School, where he educated the famous John Cotton, pastor of Boston, up to 1597; and that he was an M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge. With reference to a possible connexion of the Doctor's ancestry with Derby, my discovery must be borne in mind that Michael Johnson, as early as 1686, had been within an ace of marrying the daughter of a Derby tradesman.

Michael Johnson's Ancestry.—In 'Who's Who' for 1907 Joseph William Johnson, LL.D., F.S.A., of Beau Manor, Maidstone, is described as

"eldest son of Abraham Johnson, descendant of Dr. Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, founder of

the great public school Uppingham, 1584; also collateral descendant of the famous lexicographer Dr. Samuel Johnson."

If this implies, as it would seem to do, that "the famous lexicographer" was descended from the founder of Uppingham School, it would be of great interest to hear from Dr. Joseph William Johnson, who appears to have written much on historical subjects, what was the exact line of descent by which William Johnson of Great Cubley, Derbyshire—Michael's father—who must have been born before 1640, and who is supposed to have been a son of the soil, derived from the venerable founder of 1584.

Isaac Johnson.—In his 'Annals' Dr. Johnson, speaking of his visit to London in 1712, when his mother stayed in Little Britain, remarks: "I seem to remember, that I played with a string and a bell, which my cousin Isaac Johnson gave me" ('Johnsonian Miscellanies,' ed. Birkbeck Hill, vol. i. p. 134, foot-note). In my chapter on Andrew Johnson (p. 224) I suggested that Isaac, though his baptism is not recorded at Birmingham, was probably a son of Andrew, whose wife, Sarah Fisher, had relatives christened Isaac. It is, however, worth noting that in Britten's 'Old Clocks and Watches and their Makers,' 2nd ed., 1904, I find an Isaac Johnson who was of the Clockmakers' Company in 1705 (a watch by him is dated 1720), and who could not have been a son of Andrew; and another Isaac Johnson, who was admitted to the Clockmakers' Company in 1723. The Doctor's remark makes it very possible that his cousin Isaac Johnson lived in London.

Cancelled legacy to Dr. Johnson.—In *The Gentleman's Magazine* for 1784, part ii. pp. 889-91, is given a long abstract of the will of Richard Russell, Esq., who died 30 Sept., 1784, at his house in Bermondsey, from which the following is an extract:—

"2,000*l.* to be laid out in erecting and placing up a monument, to perpetuate my memory, in the parish church of St. John, Southwark, aforesaid.

"And the further sum of 100*l.* I give to Dr. Samuel Johnson, now or late of Bolt Court, Fleet Street, upon condition he writes an epitaph, to be inscribed on my said monument."

The will was executed on 10 April, 1784; and by a codicil dated two days later he revoked the legacy to Dr. Johnson, and gave it to the Rev. John Grose (1758-1821), F.S.A., a divine of whom there is some account in the 'D.N.B.' Accompanying the

abstract is a portrait of the testator, and a tabular pedigree showing his descent from the Russells of Rowley Regis. Russell's legacy is noted also in Manning's 'Surrey,' vol. iii. p. 613. Whether Russell was personally acquainted with Johnson, or why he altered his mind so quickly as to the epitaph, I have not discovered. Perhaps the Doctor's ill-health had something to do with it: on the very day of Russell's codicil he wrote to Dr. Taylor as to his weak condition.

Dr. Johnson's first visit to London.—In my book (pp. 136, 174) I called attention to the fact that when Mrs. Johnson, in 1712, took Samuel to London to be touched by the Queen, she stayed "at Nicholson's, the famous bookseller, in Little Britain," but a stone's throw from Christ's Hospital, where her cousin, Cornelius Jesson, held office as steward. Dr. Birkbeck Hill, in his 'Johnsonian Miscellanies' (vol. i. p. 133), makes no attempt to identify Nicholson, but in Mr. William Roberts's 'Earlier History of English Bookselling,' 1889, I read (p. 127) that

"John Nicholson, of the King's Arms, Little Britain, was another extensive bookseller whose name is frequently found in conjunction with that of Robert Knaplock, of St. Paul's Churchyard, and Samuel Ballard."

Their lists, we are told, include a large number of

"quaint and curious little books.....Perhaps the most important book in the lists of Nicholson and Knaplock was Stebbing's edition of Sandford's 'Genealogical History of the Kings and Queens of England' (1707), a folio of nearly 900 pages."

Nicholson is also alluded to in a vein of friendly irony by the eccentric John Dunton (1659-1733) in his 'Life and Errors' (ed. 1818, p. 209):—

"Mr. John Nicholson. His talent lies at Projection, though I am thinking his 'Voyages and Travels' will be a little *posthumous*. He is usually fortunate in what he goes upon. He is a man of good sense; for I have known him lay the first rudiments and sinews of a *design* with great judgment, and always according to the Rules of Art or Interest. He purchased part of my Stock, when I threw up all concerns in Trade; and I ever found him a very honest man."

The hour of Dr. Johnson's birth.—As the bicentenary of his birth is not far off, it is well to call attention to the fact (overlooked, I think, by Dr. Birkbeck Hill and other Johnsonians) that an early number of 'N. & Q.' contains evidence as to the exact time of his birth. On 12 March, 1859 (2 S. vii. 216) O. L. CHAMBERS communicated a

note to the effect that he possessed a volume consisting of three of Dr. Johnson's works bound together, the inside cover of which bore the inscription: "Ex dono Authoris, Anna Williams"; and that at the end of the volume was inserted an old and tattered paper recording that "Dr. Samuel Johnson was born the 7th day of September, 1709, at Litchfield, near the market-place, about four o'clock in the afternoon." Few will doubt the authenticity of this piece of evidence, or the accuracy of the information, which would doubtless be derived, directly or indirectly, from a family Bible. It is, of course, the fact that Johnson was born on 7 September, 1709 (O.S.), and his baptism took place the same day; and Anna Williams is well known as one of those whom the large-hearted Doctor provided with a home.

Dr. Johnson's china teapot.—At the end of my book (p. 283) I gave some particulars of the Rev. Samuel Hay Parker, who communicated to Croker some anecdotes of Dr. Johnson derived from his mother, and from whose daughter Sarah Anne was acquired (in 1885) the great Worcester teapot which helps to keep the Doctor's memory green in the Common Room of his old college. It is worth noting that the Liverpool papers for 30 April, 1907, recorded her death:—

"April 26, at her residence, 163, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Sarah Anne, eldest daughter of the late Rev. S. H. Parker, late vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon."

In *The Athenæum* for 1 June was advertised an auction sale of the contents of her residence, including 700 ounces of silver, as well as cut glass, engravings, old furniture, &c. This made me wonder if there might be any items of Johnsonian interest, but on receipt of a catalogue I found that all the effects had belonged to

"the late Wm. Scoltock, Esq., a well-known Shropshire Antiquarian, the greater portion having been in his family for generations, and are now to be sold by order of the Executrix of the late Miss Parker."

The Rev. Samuel Hay Parker, whose daughter Harriett Steele Parker became in 1878 the third wife of my grandfather, William Treleaven Fox, presented a valuable collection of Johnsonian documents to the library of Pembroke College on 1 June, 1827, when he took his degree there.

Andrew Johnson.—In Nichols's 'Leicestershire,' under 'Wistow' (vol. ii. pt. 2, p. 871), I find the following:—

"In 1719, the freeholders who polled from this parish were, sir *Richard Halford*, bart. and *Andrew Johnson*. *Richard Halford*, esq. of Edithweston, polled also for a freehold at Croxton.

"In 1722, sir *Richard Halford* and *Andrew Johnson* again occur; but in 1775 not a single name."

Whether this can refer to the Doctor's uncle, Andrew Johnson (1660–1729) of Birmingham, is more than I can say. In my account of him (pp. 217–27) there is no evidence of his owning any property in Leicestershire. His son, Fisher Johnson, settled at Leicester, seven miles from Wistow, in 1736, and ended his days there. And Dr. Johnson's wife, Elizabeth Jervis, came from Great Peatling, barely four miles from Wistow. But it is quite possible that Andrew Johnson, a freeholder at Wistow, was no relation, though Andrew Johnsons are not, I think, often met with in contemporary records. Coincidences are dangerous if fascinating guides; and I claim no significance for the curious fact that Sir Richard Halford's brother, Sir William Halford, whom he succeeded as fifth baronet in 1695, had married Judith, daughter of Thomas Boothby, of Tooley Park, Leicestershire, and sister of Thomas Boothby, of Tooley Park, the celebrated sportsman, whose second wife, Esther, was sister to that Charles Skrymsher whom Dr. Johnson claimed as "very nearly related" to him, and niece, in all probability, to Andrew Johnson.

Of William Priest, the young Birmingham attorney, who did his best to save Andrew Johnson from the ignominy of imprisonment for debt, as is evidenced by the correspondence I printed (pp. 219–20) between him and Thomas Shepperd, of Bridgnorth, I gave some particulars. Priest also acted for the Doctor's uncle, Samuel Ford, and was familiar with the affairs of the notorious "Parson" Ford. His close relations with the Doctor's kinsfolk invest his figure with some interest, and I am much obliged to Mr. W. B. Bickley, of Birmingham, who possesses an extensive knowledge of local genealogy, for the following short sketch of his career:—

"William Priest of Birmingham, attorney-at-law, was the only son of William Priest, a member of the Priest family of Fillongley, co. Warwick, and Susannah his wife, daughter of Charles Shuttleworth of Blaburs Hall, near Maxstoke, co. Warwick, who were married in 1696 (licence issued for marriage at Fillongley or 'Whitacre Inferior'). This William Priest died 20 April, 1697, so it is a question whether he ever saw his son, who was born in that year. The widow returned to her paternal home and resided with her widowed

mother. From here the boy was sent to Coleshill to school, and later, in 1707, to the school of a Mr. Packwood, of Burton-on-Trent; in 1712 he was at Coventry School. In 1713 William Priest entered the office of a Mr. Hare, an attorney in Birmingham; he resided at the house of his mother's sister, Margery, wife of one John Sherrard, a cutler in Moor Street.* As early as 1718 Mr. Priest was addressed as an 'attorney-at-law'; and in or about November, 1719, he married. The old papers† do not disclose the lady's name; but there is some reason for supposing she was the sister of Mrs. Scott, wife of Joseph Scott of Birmingham, linen-draper. Mr. Priest became tenant of a house in Park Street, Birmingham, where he carried on his business till late in life. On 28 Aug., 1720, a son, William Shuttleworth Priest, was born. In or about March, 1721/2, Mr. Priest lost his wife, upon which his good mother kindly came and kept house for him, and took charge of his only child. This lady died 29 May, 1742, aged 66, and was buried at Fillongley. William Priest died 19 Feb., 1771, aged 74, and was also buried at Fillongley. The son, William Shuttleworth Priest (as he called himself), practised as an attorney at Coventry for a time; he married Mary Byker, and had three children baptized at Trinity Church there, but as far as can be gathered from the wording of his will, none of them survived him. He died 18 Aug., 1797, aged 77, and was buried at Fillongley."

Mr. Bickley tells me that among Priest's papers are a great many private letters addressed to Mrs. Priest, sen., and to her mother, Mrs. Shuttleworth, at dates before William had started his legal career. "Among other crops grown at Blaburs Hall," says Mr. Bickley,

"was one of *roses*! these were gathered before being full blown, dried, and sent to London for making perfume. Mrs. Priest's sisters and others were invited to assist with this delightful crop."

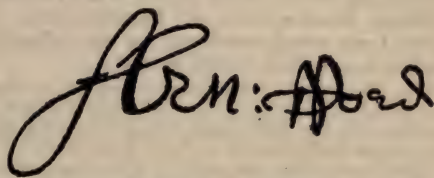
Joseph Scott it was to whom "Parson" Ford mortgaged his estate at Moseley in 1722 for 300*l.*, and whose receipt, dated 1724, for that amount with interest, received from the "Parson" "by the hands of my brother-in-law William Priest," I printed in my book (p. 162). He was the fourth son of William Scott, of Great Barr, by Mary his wife, daughter of Richard Scott; according to the pedigree in Shaw's 'Staffordshire' (vol. ii. p. 107*) he was baptized

11 Feb., 1686, and died without issue as late as 1781. His brother, John Scott, was father of William Scott, whose son Joseph was created a baronet in 1806. This Joseph Scott, in the settlement on his marriage in 1777, is described, Mr. Bickley tells me, as "nephew" of Joseph Scott the elder, of Birmingham, linen-draper, who is "very kindly settling a great estate upon him."

With regard to Thomas Shepperd's wife Eleanor, who seemed even less anxious than her husband to remain Andrew Johnson's creditor, Mr. Bickley has discovered that before her marriage to Shepperd she wrote as a relative to William Priest, under the name of Chambers. Priest addressed husband and wife each as "couzen" in the correspondence I printed.

Since the preceding few notes were put together Mr. Joseph Hill's excellent work on 'The Book Makers of Old Birmingham' has appeared. The only information I find in it about Andrew Johnson, that is not given in my book, is that "the church books of Aston show that in 1705 he sold two psalm books to that church for 4*s.*, and probably he supplied a Bible also in 1708." Mr. Hill, who has evidently not referred to my book, gives a valuable plan of the centre of Birmingham early in the eighteenth century, showing the location of Andrew Johnson's and Harry Porter's shops.

Henry Ford, of Clifford's Inn.—Mr. Bickley has been able to throw a little more light on Dr. Johnson's great-uncle. He has kindly lent me a bond, dated 15 April, 1685, by which Henry Ford, of Clifford's Inn, London, gent., binds himself to pay the sum of 110*l.*, with interest, to one Joseph Pemberton, of Birmingham. This bond, witnessed by Richard Smalbroke and James Pemberton, has clearly been filled up by Ford himself. In my book I was unable to give his signature, so reproduce here



the one to this bond. The seal to the bond has undoubtedly been heraldic, but, as Mr. Bickley observes, is now quite unrecognizable. Interest on the sum, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, seems to have been

* After John Sherrard's death his widow married Tobias Bellaers. Her sister Mrs. Priest, in her will in 1742 (see my book, p. 219), mentions her sister, Mrs. Margery Bellaers, and her brother-in-law, Tobias Bellaers of Birmingham, ironmonger. Mrs. Priest leaves a ring to "Dr. Higgs," who I suggested was William Higgs, first rector of St. Philip's, Birmingham; but Mr. Bickley tells me that in 1750 William Priest transacted some business for one Joseph Higgs, of Birmingham, surgeon.

† Mr. Bickley possesses a large and interesting collection of William Priest's papers.

paid for five years, up to 16 April, 1690, as is evidenced by endorsements in Ford's own writing. It was in the following February, at the age of sixty-three, that he relinquished his room at Clifford's Inn.

In my book I showed (p. 128) that Henry Ford married, in 1661, Rebecca, daughter of William Ingram, of Nuthurst, Hampton-in-Arden, and that Rebecca's brother, Isaac Ingram, of Nuthurst, by will dated 1671, left his property called Lindhursts, at Nuthurst, to his eldest son William when eighteen years of age. From Burke's 'Landed Gentry,' 1906, under 'Aylesbury of Packwood,' I learn that Francis Aylesbury, of Packwood, who died in 1705, had by Dorothy his wife (died 1711), daughter of William Grove, of Wassell, Hagley, co. Worc., a daughter Elizabeth, who married William Ingram, of Nuthurst. It was at Packwood that Cornelius Ford spent his declining years; and there his daughter Sarah, in 1706, was married to Michael Johnson.

I also showed (p. 131) that Henry Ford's grandson, Charles Abnet, died at the Manwoods, Handsworth, in 1730, and quoted Stebbing Shaw's statement, over a century ago, that

"quite at the extremity of this parish, near Sandwell Park, is the Manwoods, an old stuccoed house, in the form of a cross, built by one Ford, steward to the Whorwoods, formerly of Sandwell. It passed, with the estate of about fifty acres, in marriage to Mr. Abnet, who sold it to the earl of Dartmouth about forty years ago."

This left scarcely room for doubt that Dr. Johnson's great-uncle, Henry Ford, built the Manwoods. I was unable to get any particulars of this house in time to include in my book. But recently I wrote to Mr. W. H. Duignan, F.S.A., of Walsall, an old and valued correspondent of 'N. & Q.,' asking him if he could tell me anything of the Manwoods. Mr. Duignan kindly forwarded my letter to his friend Mr. Frederick William Hackwood, of Handsworth, to whom I am much indebted for the following careful description of the house:—

"The Manwoods (sometimes called Bayes Hall) is a farm-house situated on the very confines of Handsworth, the field which adjoins the back premises being in the parish of West Bromwich.

"Considering the populousness of the two parishes by which it is surrounded, the situation is rather remote, being reached by a private road running out of Sandwell Park Lane towards the Handsworth uplands, and which is abruptly brought to a termination by a gated field into which the house fronts. The house lies in a slight dip, surrounded by a low, old-fashioned, brick-coped wall, with a

gateway opening between two pillars of corresponding style having the usual ball-caps of stone; and from which a short flight of stone steps descends to a path leading across the side of a little lawn to the front entrance. Outside the gateway stands a horseblock, and just inside the wall are three fine old yew-trees, which almost screen the whole of the edifice from view.

"The residence is a gabled, red-brick, three-storied building, cruciform in plan, with all the chimney stacks clustered at the centre. It is totally devoid of architectural ornament, has no noticeable feature inside or out (except, perhaps, its heavy-studded doors with great wrought-iron hinges), and possesses few associations of interest beyond those connecting it with Dr. Johnson.

"The Manwoods farm comprises at present 184 acres, leased from Lord Dartmouth by Mr. Thomas Wells of Oscott, and occupied by his son-in-law, Mr. Joseph Timmins.

"Lying midway between Hamstead and Sandwell, those two outlying collieries which almost link-up the Black Country with Birmingham, the farm is beginning to wear the smoke-blighted appearance characteristic of the locality; and some of its land is threatened with appropriation by the Handsworth Council for the purpose of a cemetery."

Mr. Hackwood says that "there seems to be no date, initial, or other inscription on the building." Mr. Duignan, who also was good enough to visit the Manwoods, says that there is nothing of interest about it except the gateway and the horseblock: he thinks the date of the house would be about 1680, the year I suggested to him. I wrote to Lord Dartmouth, who made some inquiries, and found that the Manwoods estate was part of a purchase made by his ancestor about the middle of the eighteenth century; but he could trace nothing to throw light on its early history or on Henry Ford. Lord Dartmouth, however, has kindly promised to let me know if he does discover anything. It is, of course, quite possible that Dr. Johnson himself may have visited his relatives at the Manwoods, which is only about four miles from Birmingham, where he had uncles and often stayed.

Mr. Bickley called my attention to a suit in 1690 (41st Report on Public Records, p. 21: Depositions by Commission), in which Henry Ford was plaintiff, and Eleanor Grevis, widow, and Benjamin Grevis, defendants. It appears, however, that the depositions relate only to the affairs of Grevis, and show, as regards Henry Ford, merely that he acted as attorney for Richard Grevis, late of Moseley Hall, King's Norton, Esq., some fifteen years before, in a suit in the Chancery Court between the said Richard and Ann Grevis, plaintiffs, and



THE MANWOODS, HANDSWORTH (N.E. VIEW).



THE MANWOODS, HANDSWORTH (S. VIEW).



one George Hill (or Hall), in reference to lands at Yardley.

In my pedigree of the Fords I showed that one of Henry Ford's grandsons, Robert Abnet—a second cousin of Dr. Johnson's—was an apothecary at Stafford, and that he died intestate in 1733, leaving a widow, Elizabeth. Joseph Wight, of Arley, Warwicks., clerk, and Ann Wight, of Arley, spinster, were sureties to the administration bond. Mr. Bickley has made it quite clear that Robert Abnet's wife, Elizabeth, was a sister of the Rev. Joseph Wight, and a daughter of the Rev. William Wight, also of Arley, who married Ursula, daughter of Sir Francis Wolryche, second bart., by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Walter Wrottesley, first bart. The Rev. William Wight had a younger son, another Rev. William Wight, and in the papers of William Priest, the attorney, in Mr. Bickley's possession, William and Joseph Wight are mentioned as brothers of Mrs. Abnet. One of the Priest documents shows that William and Joseph Wight had another sister, Ursula, who married John Watkins; and alludes to their parents, William and Ursula Wight, and their aunt, Margaret Wolryche. Mrs. Robert Abnet's aunt, Mary Wolryche, married the Hon. John Grey, of Enville Hall, Salop, third son of Henry, first Earl of Stamford, and had an only daughter, Mary Grey, who married William Ward, M.P. for Staffs., becoming mother of John, first Viscount Dudley and Ward. The Hon. John Grey married, as his second wife, Catherine, eldest daughter of Edward, second Baron Ward, and had a son, Harry Grey, who succeeded as third Earl of Stamford; so that the relationship between the Greys and the Wards is rather confusing. Some of the Priest papers, dealing with the affairs of the Wights, refer to "Mr. Ward," the future Viscount Ward; and a note by Priest himself refers to his mother, Mary Ward, widow, as "the only daughter of Mary, who was one of the sisters of the said Margaret Wolryche."

In Nichols's 'Literary Illustrations of the Eighteenth Century' (vol. v. p. 163), I find a letter, dated July, 1738, from Thomas Carte to Corbet Kynaston, in which he says:—

"This last set went away in October to London, and then a grave widow gentlewoman (the daughter of a Warwickshire clergyman, Mr. Wight, of Arley, who married a sister of Sir J. Woolrich of your county), being in distress, came and staid there* till now."

* Tarriers, near Wycombe.

The "grave widow gentlewoman," must have been Mrs. Abnet, the widow of Johnson's second cousin, who, I showed, was alive in 1743, or her sister. Corbet Kynaston, who was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1714 and 1724, died in 1740, and left his large estates in Shropshire to his kinsman Andrew Corbet, the young gentleman of Pembroke College who is supposed to have helped, or promised to help, Johnson at Oxford, and who is also named as one of the Doctor's schoolfellows.

Dr. Joseph Ford.—A deed kindly lent to me by Mr. Bickley is of interest as relating to Dr. Johnson's eldest maternal uncle, the father of "Parson" Ford. By this deed, dated 26 Jan., 1693/4, Henry Grove, of Ludley, Worc., gent., and Henry Haden, of Hadon Hill, parish of Rowley Regis, Staffs., gent., sell to Joseph Ford, of Stourbridge, Worc., gent., some six and a half acres of land in Huntingtree Field, Halesowen, Salop. This land, it appears, had been mortgaged on 4 Oct., 1690, by the said Henry Grove, to Jane, now wife of the said Joseph Ford, by the name of Jane Hickman, of Stourbridge, Worc., widow. An endorsement shows that possession of the land was given to Joseph Ford on 6 Feb., 1693/4, one of the witnesses being Samuel Ford. Samuel was one of Joseph Ford's younger brothers, then aged only twenty-one: his signature on this document is larger and more laboured than that to his letter to William Priest in 1731, which I reproduced in my book (p. 154). Gregory Hickman, first husband of Jane, died at the end of March, 1690; her first child by Joseph Ford was baptized 2 Sept., 1691. These dates fix the time of her second marriage as about the end of 1690. A note on the deed tells us that the land in question was sold by Ford and his wife to Elizabeth Higgins, the mother of Elizabeth Sanders, wife of Samuel Sanders, and comprised in some deed of 4 Sept., 1718. Samuel Saunders (*sic*) owned land adjacent to that purchased by Joseph Ford; as also did George Darby, Sir Charles Lyttelton, Bart., Richard Higgins, and Thomas Grove.

Mr. W. P. Gibbons, J.P., of Ruiton House, near Dudley, whose researches into Midland genealogy aided me in the compilation of my book, has also kindly lent me a deed of considerable interest relating to Dr. Joseph Ford. This is an indenture, dated 17 Oct., 1707, made between the Right Hon. John, Lord Somers, Baron of Evesham, of the

first part; Katherine Somers, of the city of Worcester, widow, of the second part; William Middlemore, of Haslewell, parish of King's Norton, co. Worc., esq., nephew and heir of George Middlemore, late of Haslewell, esq., deceased, of the third part; and Joseph Ford, of Stourbridge, co. Worc., gent., Samuel Ford, of the parish of Packwood, co. Warwick, gent., and Nathaniel Ford, of Sutton Coldfield, co. Warwick, mercer, of the fourth part. Lord Somers was, of course, the celebrated Lord Chancellor, and Katherine Somers was his mother; while Samuel and Nathaniel Ford were the younger brothers of Joseph. The deed relates to the sale by Lord Somers of his interest in certain property at King's Norton to Joseph Ford, for the sum of 1,141*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, together with another sum of 269*l.* 10*s.* due on the property to Katherine Somers. The property had formerly belonged to George Middlemore, who sold it to William Gulston, of the Inner Temple, esq., by indenture dated 2 Feb., 1691/2, for a term of 1,000 years, at a peppercorn rent, for the sum of 1,050*l.*, subject to a proviso of redemption upon payment of 1,155*l.* By an instrument dated 29 Dec., 1692, William Gulston acknowledged himself to have acted in this matter only in trust for Lord Somers. The principal sum of 1,050*l.* remained unpaid, and by indenture dated 17 Oct., 1705, William Gulston transferred his interest in the estate to Lord Somers for the sum of five shillings. William Middlemore, by indenture dated 8 Oct., 1702, borrowed a sum of 250*l.* from Katherine Somers on the security of the property, chargeable against it with interest at the rate of 5 per cent., which made the sum due to her, on the purchase by Joseph Ford, up to 269*l.* 10*s.* The purchase-money of 1,050*l.*, which also remained unpaid, had increased with interest to 1,141*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

Joseph Ford's seal bears a shield, with helmet and mantling: Arms, (? Gules) two bends vair, a canton (? or). Crest, a talbot (?) passant. These arms are ascribed by Burke to Ford, but no locality is given; and I am unable to say whether Joseph Ford had any right to use them. Probably he merely adopted the coat of some family to which he was not related; but I shall be glad to know to which Ford family these arms rightfully belong.

Samuel and Nathaniel Ford use the same seal, bearing crest, on wreath, a lion sejant guardant (sable), holding a lozenge

vair. This is the crest assigned by Burke and Papworth to Goodwin of London and Lincolnshire; and the arms of that family (Or, a lion passant guardant sable, on a chief gules three lozenges vair) appear on the seal attached to the signature of William Middlemore on this same deed. Mr. Paley Baildon, F.S.A., who has examined these seals for me, suggests that the Goodwin seals may have been supplied by the attorney.

In my book I was not able to give the signature either of Joseph or Nathaniel Ford, so I reproduce here the signatures of the three brothers to this deed:—

Jos: Ford
Sam: Ford
Nath: Ford

"Parson" Ford.—The Rev. Walter A. Jones, Rector of Pedmore, near Stourbridge, has made a small discovery of interest. Visiting Lichfield with his choir in July last, he saw my book at the birthplace, and finding in it (p. 148) evidence that Johnson probably visited Pedmore in the autumn of 1725, to stay with his cousin Cornelius Ford, who was then living there, he examined the registers and parish books of Pedmore on his return. In the churchwardens' books he found the following entry, which was not easily decipherable, but has been kindly copied for me by Mr. Wickham King, of Hagley:—

Mar. 29.....

Ester Munday Tho. Porter.....up his acct. being Churchwarden & they amounted to y^e sum of

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| | 6 0 0 |
| he has rec ^d by levey | 5 8 0 |
| He remains in stock | 0 12 0 |

Then Mr. Jo. Patchet being overseer of y^e poor of p^e he gave up his acct.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| His Disbursm ^{ts} are | 14 1 0 |
| Rec ^d by Levy | 14 3 0 |
| Rem ^s in Stock | 0 2 0 |

Memor^d

Then it is agreed by y^e parishe That y^e Chuse Tho. Underhill Churchwarden for y^e year ensuing & George Southwell overseer of y^e Poore.

THO. PHILPOTT
CORN. FORD
JOHN PEARPOINT

Now the year of this entry is obliterated, as I have indicated, but the preceding minute is dated 26 Sept., 1724. The next entry, Mr. Wickham King says, is a grant of a levy to George Southwell, "Ap. 4, 1725/6 [*sic*]," followed by a meeting on 11 April, 1726, when George Southwell gives up his account, and "Then Thomas Underhill, being Churchwarden for the last year, and he gave up his account as follows," &c.

It is therefore abundantly clear that the date should be 29 March, 1725. That the second signature is that of Cornelius Ford, the notorious "Parson," can scarcely be questioned, as I showed (p. 159) that at the time of his marriage, in June of the preceding year, to Judith Crowley, he was living at Pedmore; that he was still there on 12 Dec., 1724 (p. 276); and that even as late as 1730, the year before his death, he was described as then or late of Pedmore (p. 165). In my book I was unable to give the signature of the Doctor's brilliant but erratic cousin, so think it well worth while to reproduce this one here:—

Corn Ford

Thomas Philpott, who signs first, succeeded George Southall as Rector of Pedmore in 1725. Cornelius Ford and John Pearpoint evidently signed only as parishioners attending the vestry meeting. This evidence of Cornelius Ford's participation, while yet a layman, in parochial affairs, is of special interest, as occurring not many months before Johnson's visit to him, a visit on which the boy's precocious abilities impressed the man, and the man's sane judgment, knowledge of the world, and brilliant conversation made

a lifelong impression on the boy's mind. I ventured to cast some ridicule (p. 168) upon Hawkins's thankful surprise that Johnson's having "been a witness to the profligacy of his cousin Ford" had left his religious beliefs unscathed, showing that on this occasion—probably the only one on which they met—Cornelius was living in a quiet country parish, with an elderly new-made bride of Quaker parentage, and, as a matter of fact, had not yet taken Holy Orders. This entry, though a small basis for argument, will not weaken my belief that Johnson had no personal knowledge of his cousin's loose habits, which at this date were probably far from being matured.

Judith Crowley, who no doubt presided over her husband's household during Johnson's visit, was one of the children of Ambrose Crowley, of Stourbridge, who by his will, in 1713, had nominated Joseph Ford, the "Parson's" father, as one of his executors. Judith's half-brother, Sir Ambrose Crowley (1658–1713), was the "Sir Arthur de Bradley" satirized by Steele in *The Tatler*, and is said to have been Addison's Jack Anvil, *alias* Sir John Enville, of *The Spectator*. In my account of Sir Ambrose (pp. 169–70) I overlooked several references to him in 'N. & Q.,' the more important of which are at 4 S. ii. 159, 233, and 9 S. iii. 155. At the second of these references G. W. M.—no doubt the late Dr. Marshall, *York Herald*—states that the family of Sir Ambrose became extinct, in the male line, on the death of his grandson John Crowley, son of John Crowley, of Barking. The elder John's daughter, Elizabeth Crowley, granddaughter of Sir Ambrose, married John, second Earl of Ashburnham, in 1756.* This is of special interest, for George, third Earl of Ashburnham, son of

* Writing to the Hon. Henry Seymour Conway on 12 Feb., 1756, Horace Walpole remarks: "My Lord Ashburnham does not keep a fast; he is going to marry one of the plump Crawleys:—they call him the noble lord upon the woollack" (*Walpole's Letters*, ed. Mrs. Paget Toynbee, vol. iii. p. 396). Mrs. Toynbee, in a foot-note, describes the lady as "Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Ambrose Crowley, Alderman of London." This is a slip which we can well forgive in so admirably zealous an editor as Mrs. Toynbee. In G. E. C.'s 'Complete Peerage' Lady Ashburnham is described correctly as "Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Crowley, of Barking, Suffolk (who was only son and heir of Sir Ambrose Crowley, Alderman of London), by Theodosia, daughter of the Rev. Joseph Gascoyne, D.D., Rector of Enfield, Middlesex."

Elizabeth Crowley, was the grandfather of Algernon Charles Swinburne, who can thus claim ancestors with Johnsonian connexions, as well as a Quaker descent of which Puritans do not find evidence in his poetry. At the last reference are some genealogical notes on Sir Ambrose by the veteran G. E. C.

In the outline I gave of the Lloyd family (p. 151) I mentioned that Mary Crowley, a sister of Mrs. "Parson" Ford, and half-sister of Sir Ambrose, married Sampson Lloyd, progenitor of the celebrated family of Birmingham bankers. Her daughter, Olivia Lloyd, was one of Johnson's early loves, while her grandson, Sampson Lloyd, was he with whom Dr. Johnson had an altercation on the subject of Barclay's 'Apology.' This Sampson Lloyd was brother of Charles Lloyd the philanthropist, whose son Charles Lloyd is better remembered as the friend of Lamb and Coleridge than for his poetry. I might have added that Isabella Lloyd, a niece of Charles Lloyd the poet, married Henry Russell the composer, and has a well-known son in William Clark Russell, the popular writer of sea stories.

I also overlooked the fact that Sir John Hynde Cotton, who married Lettice, the second daughter of Sir Ambrose Crowley, is treated of in the 'D.N.B.' Succeeding his father as fourth baronet, he became one of the leaders of the Jacobite party, and was M.P. successively for Cambridge and Marlborough. As he was nephew by marriage to "Parson" Ford, it is interesting to learn that

"good living was also among his pleasures. It was an age of hard drinking; but Cotton was credited with the power of consuming as much wine as any man in England."

He was indeed a man after the "Parson's" own heart. His son, Sir John Hynde Cotton, fifth baronet, married a first cousin, Anne, daughter of Humphrey Parsons, M.P., twice Lord Mayor of London, by Sarah, third daughter of Sir Ambrose Crowley, and was father of Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, whose son, Sir St. Vincent Cotton, a celebrated gambler, dissipated the family fortunes, and for many years drove the Brighton coach.

It is worth noting that administration of the estate of one Cornelius Ford, who died a bachelor in the East Indies, was granted in P.C.C., on 22 June, 1670, to Edward Pratt, the principal creditor; but there is

no evidence to connect him with Dr. Johnson's kinsfolk.*

The Chambers Family.—In my pedigree of Dr. Johnson's maternal ancestry I showed that his second cousin, Thomas Jesson (1697–1766), of West Bromwich, grandson of his mother's aunt Mary Ford, wife of George Jesson, was married in 1726 to Mary, daughter of Timothy Chambers, of King's Norton, and sister, as I pointed out (p. 138), of the Rev. Richard Chambers, M.A., Rector of Naunton Beauchamp and Canon of Hereford, who preceded Johnson at Pembroke by some sixteen years. From the late Mr. H. Sydney Grazebrook's account of the Dudley family (William Salt Archaeological Society, *Staffordshire Collections*, vol. ix. p. 140, and vol. x. p. 177) I learn that this Rev. Richard Chambers married in 1746 Mary, only daughter of Jacob Smith and sister of William Smith, who in 1737 married the Hon. Anne Lea, eldest sister and coheir of Ferdinando Dudley-Lea, fifteenth Lord Dudley. The Rev. Richard and Mary Chambers had a son, also Richard Chambers, of Whitbourne Court, Herefordshire, who was High Sheriff of that county in 1793. Jane Chambers, who married Dr. Johnson's uncle Samuel Ford at King's Norton in 1707, was no doubt a member of the same family. It is also quite possible that the Doctor's "dear old friend" Catherine Chambers (1709?–1767), from 1724 a devoted servant in the Lichfield household, came of the same stock. In her will, of which I printed an abstract (p. 242), she left 5*l.* apiece to her sisters Ann Simpson and Sarah Hall, and also to Lucy Charnock and Catherine Chambers Charnock, daughters of Thomas and Catherine Charnock, Lucy Porter scooping up the residue of her estate.

Elizabeth Herne.—In my chapter dealing with Dr. Johnson's aunt Phoebe Ford, wife of John Harrison, and with her descendants, I showed (p. 179) that Elizabeth Herne, the lunatic cousin whom the Doctor helped to support, and to whom, by the codicil to his will, he bequeathed a legacy of 100*l.*, was the elder of the two daughters of Benjamin Herne, of Banwell, near Axbridge,

* And as Dr. Johnson had an uncle and at least one cousin named Nathaniel Ford, I may mention that there was a Nathaniel Ford, captain in the service of the Hon. the United East India Company at Bengal, who died a bachelor, administration of his estate being granted in P.C.C. on 22 Dec., 1774, to John Ford, his brother, Elizabeth Ford, widow, his mother, having renounced.



THE REV. HENRY WHITE.



MRS. SEWARD.



in Somerset, by Phoebe his wife, daughter of John and Phoebe Harrison. The Vicar of Banwell, the Rev. Charles S. Taylor, F.S.A., being a contributor to 'N. & Q.,' I ventured to write and ask him if he could supply any information about the Herne family. Mr. Taylor kindly tells me that there is no stone bearing the name in the churchyard, and that he has searched the register of baptisms from 1727 to 1747 without finding the name Herne at all; it is certain, therefore, that Benjamin Herne's daughters were not baptized at Banwell. As Mr. Taylor suggests, the registers of Axbridge might throw some light on the family.

The Whites of Lichfield.—In my account of the White family (pp. 245-6) I stated that Thomas White, a Proctor of the Ecclesiastical Court of Lichfield, cousin and executor to Anna Seward, had a son Thomas, as well as one daughter, living in 1806. This son, the Rev. Thomas Henry White, M.A., married, in 1834, Christina, daughter of Robert Thomson, J.P., of Camphill, Renfrew, but died without issue in 1849. The daughter, it appears, was Mary White, who married Christina's brother Robert Thomson, J.P., the younger, of Camphill.* Her elder and only surviving son is the present Col. Sir Robert T. White-Thomson, K.C.B., of Broomford Manor, Exbourne, N. Devon. Sir Robert, of whose interesting connexions I was unfortunately not aware until after the completion of my work, tells me that his Devon home "is full of the old furniture, books, and pictures which were accumulated by my great-uncle (the Rev. Henry White, Vicar of Chebsey and Sacrist of Lichfield Cathedral) and grandfather, with whom we lived, after my father's early death in 1833, until 1838, when he too died, and we came South." It is interesting to think that Sir Robert, who was five years old when his great-uncle died in 1836, is separated only by one life from the Lichfield of Johnson's day. It was to the Rev. Henry White that the Doctor confided the fact of his penance in the market-place of Uttoxeter; and, according to Miss Seward, the Doctor alluded to him as "the rising strength of Lichfield." He and his brother Thomas White were grandsons of the Rev. John Hunter, ever to be remembered as Johnson's schoolmaster at Lichfield, and of his second wife Lucy Porter, sister of Harry Porter, the first

husband of Johnson's adored "Tetty"; while Anna Seward was a granddaughter of Hunter and of his first wife, Miss Norton of Warwick.

"As residuary legatee and first cousin of Anna Seward," writes Sir Robert,

"my grandfather Thomas White inherited her portrait and that of her sister, by Kettle; Mrs. Seward's, 1755, by Pickering; and last, not least, Canon Seward, by Wright of Derby: these are all here in excellent preservation; also a miniature of Anna, by Miers, left in her curious will to my grandmother."

Anna's sister was the "young and lovely" Sarah Seward, whose death in 1764, soon after her betrothal to the Doctor's middle-aged stepson, Joseph Porter of Leghorn, must invest any portrait of her with a romantic interest. A diamond ring, also bequeathed by Anna Seward to Sir Robert's grandmother, is now worn by Lady White-Thomson.

Thomas White, Sir Robert White-Thomson's grandfather, married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Daniel William Remington, Vicar of St. Mary's, Lichfield, by Mary his wife, daughter of Christopher Heveningham, whose father, also Christopher Heveningham, was, as I showed (p. 216), one of the jury sworn for the trial of Michael Johnson, in 1718, before the Lichfield Quarter Sessions. Sir Robert tells me that Henry Heveningham, whose name also occurs in the jury panel, but who was not sworn, was the eldest son of Christopher, senior; he married, but died without issue. Sir Robert has a small picture on copper of his great-grandmother, Mary Heveningham (born March, 1727), who, with her sister Arabella, was brought up by the Welds at Lulworth Castle, Humphrey Weld having married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Simeon, first baronet, by Bridget his wife, daughter and eventual heir of Walter Heveningham, of Aston, Staffs.*; as well as a fine miniature of her

* Walter Heveningham was the elder brother of Simon Heveningham, father of Christopher Heveningham, the Lichfield jurymen. This Christopher was a man with a grievance, who considered himself entitled to the family property which had gone to his uncle Walter's daughters. Sir Robert White-Thomson has lent me a copy, in his possession, of an old document which descended from the Heveninghams, dealing with Christopher's claim, and apparently a statement for counsel. As it tells a curious tale, of interest to many leading Roman Catholic families descended from Sir James Simeon, I venture to record it in this foot-note:—

"The Case of Christopher Heveningham, of the City of Lichfield, Gent. He is grandson of Nicholas Heveningham, Esq., who was son of Walter Heven-

* After Robert Thomson's death, in 1833, she married, for her second husband, Sir T. Noel Harris, K.C.H., and died in 1860.

son, Edward Simeon Remington, godson of Sir Edward Simeon, the second baronet. At Lulworth Castle, Sir Robert tells me, there are portraits of Bridget Heveningham and of her husband, Sir James Simeon.

The Sacheverell Incident.—Readers of Boswell will recollect that the incident of Johnson, when in his third year, attending “the cathedral perched upon his father’s shoulders, listening and gaping at the much-celebrated preacher,” Dr. Sacheverell, was communicated by Miss Mary Adey, of Lichfield, on the authority of her “grandfather Hammond,” who was present at the sermon, and questioned Michael Johnson as to why he brought such an infant to church. This incident, which the sculptor has depicted on the base of the Johnson statue at Lichfield, has been so much discussed that evidence as to the identity of “grandfather

ingham, of Pipe, in the county of Stafford. The said Nicholas had 3 sons, vizt. Walter, Symon and Christopher. Xtopher dyed unmarried. Walter had no issue male, but had two daughters, one married to Walter Fowler, Esq., the other to Sir James Simeon.

“Symon had issue, John, Henry, & Christopher, who is the party claiming. His brothers John & Henry were both educated Papists beyond the seas, and when grown up returned to England, when Sir James Simeon found means to have them both put into Bethlem (to prevent them claiming the estate belonging to the Heveninghams) where John died in a few weeks, & Henry not of 10 or 12 years. Sir James also contrived to send this claimant Xtopher into the Indies, where he remained many years (and was said to be dead, to Sir James, his great satisfaction) but has returned & embraced the Protestant Religion of the established church of England—married & hath issue now living 4 sons & one daughter.

“He made a claim to the estate in Chancery, & Sir James Simeon told Mr. Lee (who was the claimant’s Lawyer) that he had no right to the estate, while his aunt Heveningham was living, but when she died, it was his. Proceeding in Chancery, he obtained a decree for 50*l.* per Annum to be paid out of Pipe Estate. In the beginning of Queen Anne’s reign, he brought an Ejectment against Sir James. Issue was joined, council feed, & Evidence ready for a trial, when Mr. Gattiere, Sir James’s attorney, came to Mr. Porter, the claimant’s attorney, and said he had a fine and recovery upon the estate, and produced a parchment, which Mr. Porter scarcely perused when he said he would acquiesce in the matter, & he would not try the cause.

“*Note.*—There was search made in the proper offices....., & no recovery to be found, only a common fine, and search has been since made but no recovery found.

“Sir James Simeon died about 8 years ago, and left issue a son, now Sir Edward Simeon, and a daughter married to — Wylde [sc. Humphrey Weld], Esq.

Hammond” must have some value as affecting the credibility of the story. I find that in St. Michael’s Church, Lichfield, is a mural tablet bearing this inscription:—

“To the Memory of | Richard Hammond gent. | and Felicia his wife | He died Feb^y 28th 1738 | aged 60 | She died Dec^r 31st 1757 | aged 76.”

Near to this is another tablet:

“In Memory of | Mary Cobb | daughter of | Richard & Felicia Hammond | who departed this life | August 9th 1793 | aged 76.”

Mrs. Cobb, who was the relict of Thomas Cobb, lived with her niece, Miss Mary Adey, at the Friary, Lichfield, where Johnson used to visit them. “How should Moll Cobb be a wit!” exclaimed the Doctor, if we may believe Miss Seward. “Cobb has read nothing, Cobb knows nothing; and where nothing has been put into the brain,

“Sir Edward is a Batchelor, was sent into France to be educated in the Popish religion, and came into England about 10 years ago, and about 4 or 5 years ago went to France again & did not return to England of near two years lame of a knee, which he pretends came by leaping over a fountain, but it was commonly reported he was killed in the French service, and he himself has declared that he was in the camp in Flanders, and saw both the french & confederate armies, and his 2 servants Robert Brent & Francis Daniell have often owned the same. When Sir Edward & the claimant have been serious in discourse concerning the estate, Sir Edward has no ways denied the claimant’s title, but said the reason he did not enjoy it was because he was cut off for being a heretick.

“(Query) Whether the Laws against Papists did not disqualify any proceedings to cut off a Protestant heir—& transfer an estate from the family of the Heveninghams to the Simeons—the Heveninghams by a lineal descent having succeeded to their patrimony long before William the Conqueror, & the last settlement made to continue the name in the Blood & Kindred in the reign of King James the first.

“Sir Edward Simeon enjoys lands of the yearly value of 2,000*l.* nearly, all or most of which ’tis said came by the Heveninghams, who are now reduced to 50*l.* p. Annum for the father & 4 sons and one daughter to subsist upon.

“(Query) Which is the best way to proceed for relief in the case above—whether to petition the Parliament, or in Equity, or at common Law.

“Sir James has formerly overpowered the claimant by his heavy purse, which occasioned the sale of a good estate the claimant had in right of his wife—and tho’ Sir James in his life-time did know & Sir Edward now does know the claimant to be right....., he is reduced for want of money & friends to assist him.”

The date of this document, which speaks of Sir James Simeon having died “about 8 years ago,” must be about 1717, as Burke’s ‘Extinct Baronetries’ gives the date of his death as “about 1709.” Humphrey Weld married Margaret Simeon in 1701, and died in 1722.

nothing can come out of it to any purpose of rational entertainment"; adding, as an explanation of his visits, "Oh! I love Cobb—I love Moll Cobb for her impudence." Miss Seward described her as ignorant, selfish, and self-sufficient, while allowing her "much of shrewd, biting, and humorous satire." In my book (p. 229) I gave an abstract of Mrs. Cobb's will, under which Miss Adey inherited most of her property.

The will of Richard Hammond, of the city of Lichfield, apothecary, dated 11 Feb., 1728/9, was proved at Lichfield, 5 Feb., 1741/2. To his two daughters, Felicia and Mary, he leaves 500*l.* each at twenty-one; while his property at Lichfield, freehold and leasehold, is to go to them at the death of his wife Felicia, whom he appoints as executrix, with his brother-in-law, the Rev. William Foden. Administration *de bonis non* was granted, on 1 Sept., 1760, to Mary Hammond, of Lichfield, spinster, the daughter of deceased—Joseph Adey, of Lichfield, gent., standing surety. Joseph Adey, who was Town Clerk of Lichfield, was Mary Adey's father; he must have married Felicia Hammond.

The evidence therefore shows that the man to whom we owe the tale of Johnson's infantile interest in theology was Richard Hammond, a Lichfield apothecary, aged at the time, if his story be correct, about thirty-four.

Two of the witnesses to Richard Hammond's will were Stephen and Jane Simpson. Stephen Simpson, who was one of Johnson's early friends and patrons at Lichfield, had married Jane, sister of Joseph Adey, in 1719. Joseph Simpson, the clever but dissipated young barrister whom Johnson befriended, was their son.

The following extract from Shaw's 'Staffordshire' (vol. i. p. 355) bears on this inquiry:—

"EDIALI HALL

is another respectable old seat formerly possessed, or inhabited, by the several families of Wolverston, Ridding, and Burnes, as appears by the parish register. Thomas Hammond lived here, and I believe owned it, 1705, his heirs being Fettiplace Nott, esq., high steward of Lichfield; and two ... Hammonds; one wife of ... Adey of Lichfield deceased; the other of Francis Cobb, esq.

"It has been since rendered celebrated by the residence of Dr. Johnson, who opened an academy here, in 1778, as before noticed in his life.

"It is a good square brick edifice, with a cupola and balustrades at the top, the whole being inclosed by a court and garden walls, lately the property of F. Nott, esq. It is now Mr. Ferne's, by purchase, and occupied as a farm."

It was, of course, in 1736 that Johnson started his academy at Edial. Whether "Thomas" Hammond is correct I cannot say; but there is no will at Lichfield of any Thomas Hammond between 1705 and 1738. Shaw certainly seems to have been in error in writing "Francis" Cobb, as I have shown that it was Thomas Cobb who married Mary Hammond. Francis Cobb was, however, one of the same family, and was living at Lichfield in 1783. William Fettiplace Nott was Steward of Lichfield from 1699 to 1726. Of his connexion with the Hammonds I have no evidence. Richard Hammond's will does not mention Edial Hall.

Dr. Shorthouse related to Johnson.—On 29 Oct., 1859, "J. H. Shorthouse, M.D., LL.D., Carshalton, Surrey," communicated to 'N. & Q.' the fact that he had just purchased from Mr. Richard Paternoster "the favourite easy chair of my illustrious kinsman, Samuel Johnson." From Boase's 'Modern English Biography' I learn that Joseph Henry Shorthouse, M.D., who founded *The Sporting Times* in 1865, and edited it until his death at Croydon on 13 June, 1883, practised at Carshalton. I have no knowledge of Dr. Shorthouse's parentage or ancestry, and should be glad of any information likely to throw light on the relationship between Dr. Johnson and the illustrious founder of *The Pink 'Un*; and also to know whether he could claim kinship with that not less distinguished Joseph Henry Shorthouse, the author of 'John Inglesant.'

The Rev. John Batteridge Pearson.—In my book (p. 243) I was unable to give much account of this clergyman, who, as Lucy Porter's principal legatee, and inheritor from her of many valuable Johnsonian relics, seems almost to come within the circle of the Doctor's kinsfolk, though, as a matter of fact, quite unrelated. Mr. Pearson and old Mr. Seward supped with Johnson and Boswell at "The Three Crowns" Inn at Lichfield on 25 March, 1776. From the Doctor's letters we gather that Mr. Pearson was very intimate with Lucy Porter during her later years, and even wrote her letters if she felt disinclined to write herself.*

Sir Robert White-Thomson, whose Johnsonian connexions I have already explained,

* Miss Seward, in a letter to Boswell on 25 March, 1785, tells him that Lucy Porter is breaking up, and that "she is now too ill to be accessible to any of her friends, except Mr. Pearson."

tells me he understands that Mr. Pearson was in the habit of cheering Lucy Porter by evening visits and games of piquet. It is pleasant to think that he did not gain her esteem, with the substantial proof she afforded him of it, by any species of toadying. Mrs. Piozzi tells us, on the authority of Dr. Johnson, who witnessed the incident, how Lucy Porter,

"being opposed one day in conversation by a clergyman who came often to her house, and feeling somewhat offended, cried out suddenly, 'Why, Mr. Pearson,' said she, 'you are just like Dr. Johnson, I think: I do not mean that you are a man of the greatest capacity in all the world like Dr. Johnson, but that you contradict one every word one speaks, just like him.'"

Principally through the kind assistance of his grandson, Mr. Philip P. Pennant, of Nantlys, St. Asaph, I am now able to give accurate particulars of the Rev. John Batteridge Pearson and his family.* Born on 27 April, 1749, "at Merival, near y^e Stone Bridge," he was the fourth and youngest son of the Rev. James Pearson (1686-1756), M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, for thirty-six years minister of St. Julian's Church, Shrewsbury, by Jane his wife, daughter of John Batteridge, of Ightfield, near Whitchurch. The Rev. James Pearson was the second son of the Rev. Samuel Pearson (1647-1727), M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, for fifty-one years Vicar of Holy Cross (Abbey Church), Shrewsbury, by Ann, daughter of Thomas Bowdler, of Shrewsbury. The Rev. Samuel Pearson was fourth son of one James Pearson (who, about 1640, left Newport, in Salop, for Shrewsbury, where he died in 1692) by Jane Hawkins, his wife.

John Batteridge Pearson, whose godparents were Mrs. Bingley, the Rev. Mr. Brooke, second master of the Free School at Shrewsbury, and Mr. Pearce, was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took his LL.B. degree in 1772. From 1774 to 1782 he was Perpetual Curate of St. Michael's, Lichfield. Early in 1779 he was appointed Vicar of Croxall, Derbyshire.

On 4 March Dr. Johnson wrote to Lucy Porter:—

"I have seen Mr. Pearson, and am pleased to find that he has got a living. I was hurried when he was with me, but had time to hear that my friends were all well."

In the year after Lucy Porter's death Mr. Pearson, now a man of means, was married at St. Mary's, Lichfield, on 17 Sept., 1787, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. James Falconer (1737-1809), D.D., Arch-deacon of Derby and Prebendary of Lichfield. It is of some interest that Mrs. Pearson's aunt Elizabeth Falconer* had, in 1759, married Thomas Pennant (1726-98), the celebrated traveller. "He's a Whig, sir; a sad dog," said Dr. Johnson in defending Pennant against Bishop Percy, "but he's the best traveller I ever read; he observes more things than any one else does."

Writing to Mrs. Gastrell and her sister, at Lichfield, on 30 March, 1782, Johnson, who was then at Bolt Court, mentioned that "when Dr. Falconer saw me, I was at home only by accident, for I lived much with Mrs. Thrale." Dr. Birkbeck Hill has a foot-note to this, saying that Miss Seward mentions "a Dr. Falconer of Bath (Seward's 'Letters,' v. 222)." This is so. Writing to F. N. C. Mundy on 6 May, 1799, Miss Seward recalls that when at Buxton in 1769 with Honora Sneyd, "the present Dr. Falconer, of Bath, was of our party." William Falconer (1744-1824), M.D., F.R.S., of Bath, is not to be dismissed as "a Dr. Falconer"; as the 'D.N.B.' says, his "attainments as a scholar and a physician were of the highest order." But Johnson's caller, we may safely say, was not Dr. Falconer of Bath, but his kinsman, the Rev. James Falconer, D.D., of Lichfield, who, on his return home from London, had told the ladies at Stow Hill of his visit to the lion of Bolt Court.

The Rev. J. B. Pearson, who was appointed Prebendary of Pipe Parva, in Lichfield Cathedral, died on 14 August, 1808, "at Croxall, co. Derby, after having performed the duties of the day and gone to bed in apparently perfect health" (*Gent. Mag.*). His widow survived him almost half a century, dying on 8 Dec., 1856, at Hill

* Much of this information concerning Pearson's ancestors and children is derived from an account of the family in his own handwriting, kindly lent to me by Mr. Pennant. Particulars of his children do not seem to have appeared in print before, which justifies me in enumerating them here, apart from the fact that it is necessary to do so in order to explain the location of various Johnsonian relics which have descended from Pearson.

* James and Elizabeth Falconer were the children of James Falconer, of Chester, Lieut. R.N., who in 1734 had married Elizabeth, daughter of William Inge, of Thorpe Constantine, Staffs. See Falconer pedigree in Burke's 'Landed Gentry,' 4th ed., 1868; also Nichols's 'Leic.,' iii. 1144.



THE REV. JOHN BATTERIDGE PEARSON.



Ridware, Staffordshire, aged ninety-two. She supplied Croker with copies of many of Johnson's letters to Lucy Porter, as well as one by Boswell.

The Rev. John Batteridge Pearson had issue, by Elizabeth Falconer, his wife, four sons and three daughters :—

I. George Pearson, born 18 Sept., 1791, and baptized 29 Nov. at Lichfield Cathedral by his grandfather Falconer, his sponsors being Mrs. Inge,* the Earl of Belfast, and Dr. Falconer himself. He was B.D. of Cambridge University; and was Rector of Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, from 1825, as well as Rural Dean. He died 13 May, 1860, having married at Chester Cathedral, on 17 Sept., 1825, Catherine (d. 1859), second daughter of Philip Humberston, of the Friars, Chester; by her he had issue, of whom later. According to an obituary notice in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, he

"was possessed of high classical and theological attainments, and was at one time Christian Advocate in the University of Cambridge.....He was seized with illness on his journey from London into Cambridgeshire, and died on the following morning. By a strange and melancholy coincidence, a daughter of the deceased also died on the same day, at the early age of 21."

II. James Pearson, born 4 Jan., 1795, and baptized 29 April at St. Mary's, Lichfield, by his grandfather Falconer, his sponsors being Miss Catherine Falconer,† with his uncles Col. Madan‡ and the Rev. J. G. Norbury.§ He entered the Navy, and died at sea.

* His grandfather, Dr. Falconer, had married Mary, daughter of Thomas Hall, of Hermitage, Cranage, Cheshire, sister to Anne Hall, who married William Inge, of Thorpe Constantine, Dr. Falconer's first cousin.

† His aunt Catherine Falconer married Col. Sir Edward Miles, C.B., on 9 Oct., 1802.

‡ His aunt Frances Falconer had married William Charles Madan, a colonel in the Army, younger son of Spencer Madan, Bishop of Peterborough, on 16 Jan., 1793.

§ His aunt Mary Falconer had married the Rev. John George Norbury, Prebendary of Lichfield, on 5 Jan., 1791. She died 23 Jan., 1797, aged 31; her husband on 6 Oct., 1800, aged 42. In the Cathedral is a monument to their memory. In 1795 Mr. Norbury occupied the Friary, where Johnson had used to visit Mrs. Cobb. In a letter to Mrs. Powys on 13 June, 1797, Miss Seward remarked: "I wonder that tidings of poor Mrs. Norbury's death, which happened in the winter, did not sooner reach you. A melancholy instance of the trustless flattery of youth and prosperity. Yet her long, though very patiently-endured sufferings made their close desirable to those who loved her most."

III. John Pearson, born 19 Feb., 1798, and baptized 24 March at St. Mary's, Lichfield, by his grandfather Falconer, his sponsors being his aunt Henrietta Pearson,* the Marquess of Donegal, and Mr. Inge, of Thorpe. He became a staff-captain E.I.C. Maritime Service, and died 1 Dec., 1855, at Cheltenham.

IV. Charles Pearson, born 4 Oct., 1799, and baptized 19 Feb., 1800, at St. Mary's, Lichfield, by his grandfather Falconer, his sponsors being his aunt Madan, the Bishop of Peterborough (Spencer Madan), and the Rev. Spencer Madan.† He was a colonel in the 61st Regiment, and married Jane, daughter of Col. William Eccles, of Davenham, Cheshire, and Mary his wife. By her he had two daughters: (1) Mary Elizabeth, born 22 Nov., 1836, married, in 1864, Marshal Neville Clarke (1828-84), M.A., J.P., of Graiguenoe Park, Tipperary, having issue; and (2) Harriet Jane, born 7 Jan., 1839, married, in 1860, George Henry Grey, son of Sir George Grey. Mrs. Marshall Clarke has a writing-desk that Dr. Johnson was in the habit of using at Lichfield. Mrs. Grey's eldest son is the present Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who possesses one of Dr. Johnson's walking-sticks.

I. Lucy Pearson, born 4 July, 1793, and baptized 30 July at St. Mary's, Lichfield, by her grandfather Falconer, her sponsors being Lady Kenyon, her grandmother Falconer, and her uncle Pearson.‡ She married William Harwood, M.D., of Hastings.

II. Henrietta Pearson, born 2 Oct., 1796, and baptized 4 May, 1797, at St. Mary's, Lichfield, by her grandfather Falconer, her sponsors being Mrs. Spencer Madan, Miss Powell, and Mr. Hall, of Armitage (? Hermitage). She married, on 22 Nov., 1822, Charles Berwick Curtis (1795-1876), fourth son of Sir William Curtis, first bart., and died 6 Aug., 1884. She had eleven children.

III. Mary Pearson, born 9 Nov., 1801. She married Edward Thornewill, of Dove Cliff, Burton-on-Trent, D.L. Staffs, who

* Henrietta, younger daughter of the Rev. James Pearson, was born 6 Jan., 1744.

† The Rev. Spencer Madan (1758-1836), elder son of the Bishop, married Henrietta, daughter of Dr. Falconer's cousin (and brother-in-law) W. Inge.

‡ This must have been Samuel Pearson, born 2 April, 1746, LL.B. St. John's Coll., Camb., 1771, and F.S.A.

died March, 1866, and had issue: (1) Thomas Thorne will, died unmarried; (2) Edward John Thorne will, a corn broker in Liverpool, who won the Grand National with Gamcock in 1887; married in 1870 Anna Maria Heywood, daughter of Robertson Gladstone, and niece of the great statesman, by whom he left a family; (1) Elizabeth Mary Thorne will; (2) Fanny Susan Thorne will, who married William Arkwright (1809-57), Major 6th Dragoons, and had issue; (3) Caroline Louisa Thorne will, who married in 1859 William Cotton Curtis, grandson of Sir William Curtis, second bart., and has issue; (4) Harriet Georgina Thorne will, who married in 1869 Michael Arthur Bass, now first Lord Burton, and has issue; (5) Octavia Jane Thorne will; (6) Annabella Emily Thorne will, who married in 1880 Robert Moreton, grandson of first Earl of Ducie, and has issue; (7) Jane Thorne will. I think it is Miss Jane Thorne will who is described in the newspapers as "the King's favourite partner at bridge," a distinction almost equal to that enjoyed by her grandfather Pearson in playing piquet with Mistress Lucy Porter.

The Rev. George Pearson, the eldest son, had issue by Catherine Humberston, his wife, seven sons and five daughters:—

1. George Falconer Pearson, of Downton, New Radnor, J.P. co. Radnor, late Colonel Madras Staff Corps. He was born in 1826, and married, in 1864, as his first wife, Caroline, daughter of the Hon. James Augustus Erskine, and niece of the twelfth Earl of Kellie. She died in 1865, and Col. Pearson married, in 1870, as his second wife, Emma, daughter of the Hon. J. Colvin, late Lieutenant-Governor N.W.P., India, by whom he has issue. To Col. Pearson has descended a portrait of Capt. Jervis Henry Porter, R.N., Dr. Johnson's eldest stepson, which hangs in Castle Camps Rectory, whither it was moved on the death of old Mrs. Pearson in 1856. The portrait, which is full size, represents a middle-aged man in naval uniform. The late George Richmond, A.R.A., who saw it, expressed the opinion that it was by one of Hogarth's pupils. Col. Pearson also owns the portraits of Mrs. Johnson—the Doctor's "Tetty"—and Lucy Porter, as a child, which, however, both hang at Nantlys, St. Asaph, the residence of his younger brother Philip (see 4). Of the former of these portraits Mrs. Piozzi wrote: "The picture I found of her at

Litchfield was very pretty, and her daughter, Mrs. Lucy Porter, said it was like."

2. Charles Pearson, born 1831, of the Indian Civil Service.

3. John Batteridge Pearson, born 1832, Rector of Whitestone, Exeter, since 1883. He is M.A. St. John's College, Cambridge, and D.D.; a Fellow of Emmanuel; was Bell's University Scholar in 1854; and has made some contributions to literature.

4. Philip Pennant Pearson, born 5 August, 1834. Thomas Pennant, the traveller, who, as I have already explained, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Falconer, R.N., and aunt of Mrs. John Batteridge Pearson, left by her a son David Pennant, who died in 1841, leaving his Bodfari and other Pennant estates, in the event of his granddaughter Louisa dying without issue, to Philip Pennant Pearson, the grandson of his first cousin. Louisa, who was the only child of David Pennant the younger (who predeceased his father in 1835, having married firstly, in 1822, Lady Caroline Spencer-Churchill, only daughter of George, fifth Duke of Marlborough, who died in 1824; and secondly, Lady Emma Brudenell, daughter of Robert, sixth Earl of Cardigan, who died in 1847), became, in 1846, the first wife of Rudolph William Basil, Viscount Feilding, afterwards eighth Earl of Denbigh, but died without issue in 1853, when the Pennant estates passed, under her grandfather's will, to Philip Pennant Pearson, who assumed the surname of Pennant in 1860. Mr. Philip Pennant Pennant, M.A., J.P., D.L., who lives at Nantlys, Bodfari, near St. Asaph, was High Sheriff of Flintshire in 1862; he is Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and High Constable of Flint Castle. In 1862 he married Mary Frances, daughter of the Rev. Edward Bankes, of Soughton Hall, Flintshire, Canon of Gloucester, by whom he has issue.

5. James Falconer Pearson, born 1836, died 1853.

6. Thomas Hall Pearson, born 1841, died 1853.

7. Edward Lynch Pearson, born 1845, Rector of Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, since 1879. He is an M.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, and married Sarah Matilda St. Quintin.

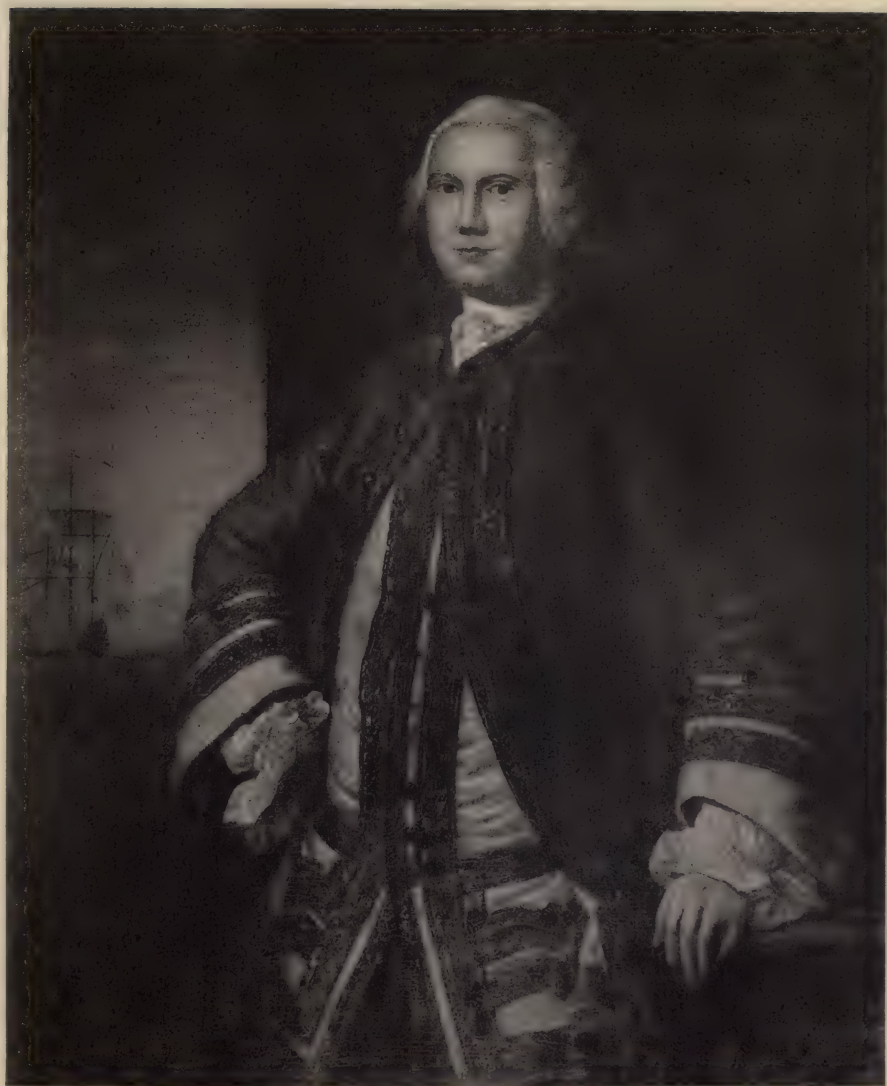
1. Catherine Hester Pearson, born 1827.

2. Frances Elizabeth Pearson, born 1829.

3. Anne Pearson, born 1839, died 1860.



CAPT. JERVIS HENRY PORTER, R.N.



4. Adelaide Sophia Pearson, born 1843. In 1883 she became the second wife of John Scott Bankes (1826-94), J.P., D.L., of Soughton Hall, half-brother of her brother Philip's wife.

5. Henrietta Georgina Pearson, born 1847, died 1848.

Mr. Pennant possesses another interesting Johnsonian relic, of which he gives me the following description:—

"The book which contains two prayers written by Dr. Johnson is entitled 'Forms of Prayer proper to be used Before, At, and After the Receiving of the Holy Sacrament. Published by W. Ginger, near the King's School, Westminster, 1768.' With it is bound up 'The Service of the Holy Communion.' In the beginning there is written, in, I think, Dr. Johnson's handwriting: 'This Book given to Mrs. Lucy Porter by Dr. Johnson 1782.' There is also a note, in, I think, my grandmother's writing, to the effect that these two prayers are contained in his 'Prayers and Meditations,' published by the Rev. G. Strahan, 1785, p. 206."

The two prayers alluded to are, of course, in the Doctor's own handwriting.

The Rev. J. B. Pearson inherited from Lucy Porter what his obituary notice in *The Gentleman's Magazine* describes as

"Sir Joshua Reynolds's best portrait of Dr. Johnson, at perhaps not above 45 years old, in an attitude of deep thought, hands lifted breast high, and the fingers half-spread in a particular manner, and unclad neck."

This portrait, which has been often reproduced, Mr. Pennant tells me,

"now hangs in Stafford House. The story, as I have always heard it, runs thus. At my grandfather's death, his widow was left with seven children from seventeen years old downwards. Lord Stafford, when hunting in her neighbourhood, would always call, and at length, after many refusals, persuaded her that, for the sake of the education of her children, she ought to sell this picture, which at length, she did. It is interesting to know that, after the divorce of the portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, the two hung again side by side, for some months, at the National Portrait Exhibition in 1867, Miss Lucy Porter also being one of the party."

"Lord Stafford" must have been the second Marquess of Stafford, created first Duke of Sutherland in 1833, the great-grandfather of the present owner of Stafford House.

The obituary notice also states that Mr. Pearson inherited from Lucy Porter a portrait of "Joseph Porter senior, by Hogarth, esteemed to be the best portrait produced by that excellent Artist," quoting from Nichols's 'Leicestershire.' This portrait is not in the possession of any of Mr. Pearson's descendants. Mr. Pennant has made inquiries, and feels quite satisfied

that it must have been purchased from his grandmother by Lord Stafford when he acquired Reynolds's portrait of Dr. Johnson. Mr. Pennant hopes to settle this point definitely later on. There is an engraving of the portrait in an interleaved copy of Harwood's 'Lichfield' at the Bodleian Library. Mr. F. G. Shirreff, assistant librarian there, kindly tells me that it

"represents a rather stout man seated at a table folding a letter; he is wearing a wig, plain coat, and embroidered waistcoat. The inscription (engraved) is 'Joseph Porter, Esq', of Mortlake, From a Drawing taken from the Original Picture in 1807. Published.....1809.' And above—'Hogarth pinxt. T. Cook sculp.'"

Since my remarks on p. 14 were printed I have discovered proof of my contention that it was not William Falconer, M.D., of Bath, who called on Dr. Johnson in 1782. The Rev. Richard Warner, in his 'Literary Recollections,' 1830 (vol. ii. p. 70) recalls a discussion that took place at a dinner-party many years before, at William Falconer's house, regarding Johnson's conversational powers:—

"Dr. Falconer expressed no great esteem of them; and no envy at those who had had the opportunity (*which never occurred to himself*) of listening to them."

The words I have italicized settle this point conclusively.

Dr. Johnson's Successors at Bolt Court.—In the early days of 'N. & Q.' one B. B. contributed a valuable note on Johnson's residence in Bolt Court, in which he stated (1 S. v. 233):—

"After the Doctor's death the Rev. — Stockdale, of the Church of England, occupied the house; next to him it was tenanted by a Rev. — Moir, (I believe) a Presbyterian; next, by one Copley, an old tailor," whose family was the last to occupy it as a dwelling-house.

In *The Gentleman's Magazine* for 1788, pt. i. pp. 537-8, I stumbled across a review of 'Gleanings, or Fugitive Pieces,' by the Rev. John Moir, M.A., a native of Scotland, which thus concludes:—

"Mr. M.'s whole dependance is on the lectureship of St. Dionis Backchurch, Fenchurch Street, and his publications, for the support of a sickly wife and numerous increasing family, who are all with him in the house inhabited by the late Dr. S. Johnson in Bolt Court, which Mr. M. took with the hope of letting it out in lodgings."

It does not appear from the review that Mr. Moir, as a literary man, was a worthy successor to the great Doctor.

"The Rev. — Stockdale, of the Church of England," stated to have been Johnson's immediate successor at Bolt Court, was, I presume, the Rev. Percival Stockdale (1736–1811), a miscellaneous writer of whom some account is given in the 'D.N.B.' He was intimate with Johnson, and in a volume of memoirs related some anecdotes of him; and we are told that he "lodged both in Johnson's Court and in Bolt Court" (Boswell's 'Johnson,' ed. Birkbeck Hill, vol. ii. p. 113, foot-note).

Michael Johnson's Apprentice.—The late Mr. H. SYDNEY GRAZEBROOK, F.S.A., showed in 'N. & Q.' twenty-five years ago (6 S. v. 147) that about 1692 Michael Johnson had living with him at his house in Sadler's Row, Market Street, Lichfield, an apprentice named Simon Martin, aged sixteen. I suggested in my book (p. 217) that he was probably related to the Simon Martin who was Junior Bailiff of Lichfield in 1684, and to the Simon Martin who in 1661 contributed 1*l.* towards an armed force for the service of Charles II. and the defence of Lichfield.

I am now able to give fuller particulars of this apprentice. "Symon, son of Mr. Symon Martin, Jun.," was baptized at St. Mary's, Lichfield, on 4 March, 1676/7. Simon Martin, "the elder," of Lichfield, gent., in his will dated 31 Oct., 1681, and proved 14 Dec., 1681, at Lichfield, asks to be buried amongst his parents and relations in St. Mary's Church; and leaves the house in St. John Street where he dwells to his son Simon, to whom he also bequeaths his library, and various pieces of land in Lichfield. He also mentions his wife Sarah; John and Simon, sons of his late son John Martin; his daughter Sarah, wife of Robert Wood ("he hath been a prodigall"), and her children; his son-in-law, Mr. Adin Froggatt, and his wife; and his grandson William Froggatt. The will of his son, Simon Martin, "the elder," of Lichfield, gent., dated 4 Feb., 1687/8, was proved at Lichfield on 2 April, 1688. He mentions that his children are mostly small, and leaves his property to his wife Abia Martin for their education till they come of age. His study of books, his writings and muniments, he leaves to his son John Martin, except those books or writings appearing to belong to the Register Office, desiring him to let his other son Simon have some of them. He mentions his two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary; his late father Simon Martin; and other relatives. One Simon Martin occurs

as a notary public in Lichfield in 1669 and 1670; this probably was the second Simon, the father of Michael Johnson's apprentice.

Few will quarrel with me for identifying this apprentice with the Mr. Simon Martin, bookseller, who was elected a member of the Common Council of Leicester in 1702 (James Thompson's 'History of Leicester in the Eighteenth Century,' 1871, p. 18). On 16 July, 1708, Simon Martin voted in favour of enclosing the South Fields in Leicester (*ibid.*, p. 26). At the time of the Rebellion in 1715

"a body of soldiery was also quartered here in October; as on the day of commemorating the Coronation (the 20th) the commissioned officers were invited to the Ordinary at Mr Simon Martin's (the White Horse)."—*Ibid.*, p. 35.

On 3 July, 1727, a portion of the Corporation took the oath of allegiance to George II. and abjured the Pretender: Mr. Simon Martin was one of the Aldermen who failed to do so—whether from disaffection is not known (*ibid.*, p. 49). In 1728 Simon Martin was elected Mayor of Leicester (James Thompson's 'History of Leicester from the Time of the Romans,' 1849, p. 479). From Nichols's 'Leicestershire,' vol. i. p. 444, I learn that Simon Martin was elected one of the chamberlains of Leicester on 21 Sept., 1715.

I have not been able to find when Simon Martin died. In W. C. B.'s list of 'Provincial Booksellers,' contributed to 'N. & Q.' in 1906 (10 S. v. 183), appears under Leicester, "Simon Marten or Martin, 1713–37." His will cannot be found in P.C.C. between 1737 and 1746.*

When Simon Martin was an apprentice, Michael Johnson's brother Andrew was helping him in the shop at Lichfield; and it is worth recalling that Andrew's son, Fisher Johnson, left Birmingham for Leicester in 1736. Can Simon Martin have influenced this change of residence? Perhaps some local antiquary can tell us more of Simon Martin.

The Rev. John Hunter's Marriages.—In my book, in my account of the masterful Lichfield pedagogue† (pp. 243–5), I was

* On 17 June, 1746, admon. of the estate of one Simon Martin, of St. Ives, Hunts, widower, decd., was granted to James Martin, the son (P.C.C. Admon. Act Book, 1746).

† From Joseph Hill's 'Book Makers of Old Birmingham,' 1907, I learn (p. 25) that "John Hunter, M.A., late of Birmingham," was on 7 Jan., 1694, appointed master of Solihull School, where he remained until 1704, the year in which the Rev. John Hunter was appointed head master of Lichfield School. Mr. Hill naturally concludes that the

unable to give any accurate particulars of his first wife, Miss Norton, sister of the Rev. Thomas Norton of Warwick,* whose father was Edward Norton of that town. The Vicar of St. Mary's, Warwick, has very kindly had his registers searched from 1700 to 1716 for the Hunter-Norton marriage, but without success; and the Vicar of St. Nicholas's, Warwick, with equal kindness and equal lack of success, has had his registers searched from 1700 to 1713 with the same object.

I was also unable to give the exact date, or the place, of Hunter's second marriage to Lucy Porter, the sister of Harry Porter, whose widow Johnson married; though I discovered that the settlement before marriage was dated 9 June, 1726. But in Nichols's 'Literary Illustrations of the Eighteenth Century,' vol. vii. p. 362, I find a letter from the Rev. Henry White, of Lichfield Close, dated 19 March, 1794, which contains the following statement:—

"Lucy Porter, sister to Mr. Porter of Birmingham, was the second wife of my grandfather Hunter, Dr. Johnson's schoolmaster. They were married in the year 1726 at Chelsea. This fact, both as to time and place, is attested by my mother, the daughter of that marriage, now resident here, aged sixty-five."

Solihull man was Johnson's schoolmaster; and also that he had previously held the post of assistant master at Birmingham School. Hunter's descendant Sir Robert White-Thomson knows nothing of his parentage or earlier career. I shall be glad to know if such information is in existence.

From the Victoria History of 'Warwickshire,' 1908, vol. ii. p. 359, under Mr. A. F. Leach's account of Solihull Grammar School, I learn that "in 1694 John Hunter, M.A., of Birmingham, was appointed [master], at a salary of 22*l.*, with 8*l.* for an usher."

To *The Times Literary Supplement* for 16 January last, p. 22, the veteran Prof. John E. B. Mayor contributed a letter in which he announced the discovery that Johnson's schoolmaster was identical with John, son of Robert Hunter, a Cheshire clergyman, who, with his brother Robert, entered Jesus College, Cambridge, on 19 April, 1678, each taking his degree of B.A. in 1681/2 and of M.A. in 1685. I understand, however, that the evidence of identification is not quite conclusive. To the same periodical for 6 February, p. 46, the Professor sent some further interesting notes on Hunter and his descendants.

* Writing to Boswell on 25 March, 1785, Miss Seward said:—"I regret that it is not in my power to collect more anecdotes of Dr. Johnson's infancy. My mother passed her days of girlhood with an uncle at Warwick, consequently was absent from home in the schoolboy days of the great man." The uncle was no doubt the Rev. Thomas Norton.

An application to St. Luke's, Chelsea, has proved this statement to be correct. The vestry clerk has courteously sent me the following copy of the entry:—

"1726, June 10. Mr. John Hunter, of the City of Litchfield, Clerk, Widower, and Lucy Porter, of St. Lawrence Jury, London, Spinster, were married by Licence by Mr. Frazer."

The explanation of Lucy Porter, daughter of a Birmingham mercer, being described as of St. Laurence Jewry, is to be found in the fact that her elder brother, Joseph Porter, was a merchant in Ironmonger Lane.

Dr. Johnson's Verses on a Sprig of Myrtle.

—The Rev. Henry White's letter, from which I have just quoted, was written to controvert the well-known letter written to Boswell by Edmund Hector, on 9 Jan., 1794, in which he directly impugned the truth of Miss Seward's statement that the 'Verses to a Lady, on receiving from her a Sprig of Myrtle,'

"were addressed to Lucy Porter, when he was enamoured of her in his boyish days, two or three years before he had seen her mother, his future wife. He wrote them at my grandfather's, and gave them to Lucy in the presence of my mother, to whom he snowed them on the instant."

Mr. Hector not only stated that the verses in question were written in 1731 to oblige a friend of his own, to whom a lady had presented a sprig of myrtle, but added:—

"I most solemnly declare, at that time, Johnson was an entire stranger to the Porter family; and it was almost two years after that I introduced him to the acquaintance of Porter, whom I bought my clothes of."

Against this Mr. White urged:—

"To the house and table of his intelligent and worthy master, young Johnson had ever familiar access, and was, consequently, well known to Mrs. Hunter, a daughter of the Porters, during those seven years which preceded the time from which Mr. Hector dates Dr. Johnson's first knowledge of the Porter family. During those preceding seven years Mrs. Hunter's niece, Lucy Porter, visited her aunt at Lichfield, and became the object of Dr. Johnson's schoolboy love."

This sounds most reasonable, and I am inclined to believe it, without doubting the truth of Mr. Hector's statements. Johnson may have met Harry Porter's sister, as well as his little girl, some years before at Lichfield, and yet have remained "an entire stranger" to him and his wife, who lived in Birmingham. But this brings me no nearer to believing Miss Seward's tale as to the

verses, the evidence against which seems conclusive.

Mrs. Elizabeth Seward, mother of Anna, and daughter of the Rev. John Hunter, died in July, 1780, aged sixty-six, so that in 1731 she would be about seventeen. But Anna Seward always dated Johnson's attachment to Lucy Porter as an incident of his "boyish days," or "school days," when both Elizabeth Hunter and Lucy were children of about ten or less. Mr. White, in his letter, says that Lucy Porter was four years younger than Johnson; but as she was baptized on 8 Nov., 1715, and died 13 Jan., 1786, aged seventy, we may assume that she was about *six* years his junior, which does not make Miss Seward's tale more credible.

The following were Mr. Hector's actual words of explanation as to the verses:—

"The true history (which I could swear to) is as follows:—Mr. Morgan Graves, the elder brother of a worthy Clergyman near Bath, with whom I was acquainted, waited upon a lady in this neighbourhood, who at parting presented him the branch. He showed it me, and wished much to return the compliment in verse. I applied to Johnson, who was with me, and in about half an hour dictated the verses which I sent to my friend."

Morgan Graves, I find, was the eldest son of Richard Graves, of Mickleton, co. Gloucester, by Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Morgan. Richard Graves (1677–1729), who was an antiquary of some distinction, had anticipated Dr. Johnson by leaving Pembroke College without a degree. Morgan Graves matriculated on 10 May, 1727, aged eighteen, at University College, Oxford. In 1735 he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, and became a bencher in 1766. He succeeded his father at Mickleton, and died on 27 Dec., 1770. The lady in the Birmingham neighbourhood who presented him with the myrtle branch does not appear to have captured his affections, for he married Anne, daughter of James Walwyn, M.P., of Longworth, co. Hereford. This lady died on 11 July, 1791, "at her house in Worcester, in an advanced age," and leaving issue. The "worthy Clergyman near Bath" was the Rev. Richard Graves (1715–1804), poet and novelist, who was a Pembroke man. It may be noted that Mrs. Morgan Graves's niece Anne, daughter of Richard Walwyn, married the Rev. Robert Foley, and had a third son, the Rev. John Foley, who in 1804 married Martha, youngest daughter of Edward Hickman, J.P., of Oldswinford, son of Gregory Hickman, whose

Johnsonian connexions are fully treated of in my book.*

"Parson" Ford and Joseph Withers.—The last paragraph in my book (p. 283) related to Joseph Withers, of Worcester, tobaccoist, who died 11 Oct., 1741, aged fifty-one, father of Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers. The Rev. Cornelius Ford, about 1729, contracted to sell the Great House in Moseley, which he had inherited from his father, Dr. Joseph Ford, to Joseph Withers, who filed two bills in Chancery to compel a specific performance of the agreement, one before and one after the "Parson's" death. I have now an abstract of the will of Joseph Withers, dated 29 Sept., 1741, in which he is described as Esquire and Mayor of the City of Worcester. In this he leaves his farm in the village of Moseley, co. Worc., now in the tenure of Joseph Bryan, and bought of *Cornelius Ford, clerk, deceased*, to his son, Charles Trupshaw (*sic*) Withers. When Dr. Ford, in 1721, devised the Great House in Moseley to his son Cornelius, it was in the tenure of William Bryan. To his son Joseph Withers also leaves his own dwelling-house in St. Swithin's, Worcester, as well as other property in Worcester and at Claines. To his eldest daughter, Mary Withers, he leaves his farm at Moseley, occupied by Joseph Richards and his wife, and purchased of his brother Samuel Withers; as well as a sum of 400*l.* To his two younger daughters, Jane and Katherine Withers, he leaves 800*l.* each at twenty-one. His wife Mary is to have a life interest in some of the property. To his aunt Trupshaw (*sic*) he leaves a mourning ring. The will was proved 27 Nov., 1741, in P.C.C. (326 Spurway), by Mary, the widow, and Charles Trubshaw Withers, the son, the executors.

Andrew Johnson's Marriage.—Since my additional notes on Andrew Johnson were printed (*ante* pp. 4, 5), Mr. A. T. Marston has made a discovery of interest. While searching the transcript of the parish register of Harborne, near Birmingham, in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, he happened upon the following entry: "Andrew Johnson and Sarah Fisher were married November 13, 1696."

* The particulars of Morgan Graves and his wife are derived from the 'D.N.B.'; Foster's 'Alumni Oxonienses'; Nash's 'Worcestershire,' vol. i. p. 198; *Gent. Mag.*, 1771, p. 47, and 1791, p. 684; and Burke's 'Commoners,' vol. iii. p. 681.

I wrote to Harborne for a copy of the original entry, but Canon Price, the Vicar, informs me that the page of the register for 1696 is torn in half, and that nothing remains of the entry but "...arah Fisher," and, on the line below, "... married."

As explained in my book (p. 217), Sarah Fisher was Andrew's second wife. I do not know why the marriage was celebrated at Harborne, which is nine miles from Elmdon, in Warwickshire, where her father Thomas Fisher had lived until his death in the preceding year.

Dr. Johnson and Sir Wolstan Dixie.—On 21 Aug., 1710, Pope wrote as follows to Henry Cromwell ('Pope's Works,' ed. Whitwell Elwin, vol. vi. pp. 102-3):—

"I fancy you have not many Sir Woolaston Dixeys in Lincolnshire, than whom I have not met with a better-bred or better-natured gentleman, and to whom I beg you will give my most humble service."

The accomplished editor has the following foot-note on the subject:—

"Sir Wolstan Dixie was the person in whose house Dr. Johnson resided in 1732 while usher of the school at Market Bosworth. His account of the baronet's temper was very different from that of Pope, for he alleged that he was treated with intolerable harshness, and he left in consequence."

As this would seem to convey a kind of reproach, and suggest that Johnson was a surly misanthrope who could not get on even with a gentleman whom Pope declared to be both kindly and cultivated, I think it right to point out that the Rev. Whitwell Elwin has gone astray here. The Sir Wolstan Dixie who won Pope's good opinion was the third baronet. It was his son, the fourth baronet, who was the Sir Wolstan Dixie so much disliked by Johnson, and who, as pointed out in my book (p. 173), was a bachelor of about thirty at the time of their disagreement. On looking into the question of the date of the third baronet's death, I found that, while Nichols's pedigree ('Leicestershire,' vol. iv. p. 507) stated that he was buried at Bosworth on 10 Dec., 1713, Burke's 'Peerage' says that he died on 10 Dec., 1731. In order that the point might be settled beyond dispute, I wrote to the Rev. P. H. Bowers, Rector of Market Bosworth, who has kindly sent me a copy of the burial entry: "Sr Wolstan Dixie, Barnit, was buried the 10 day of December, 1713."

Nichols gives the date of his baptism as 25 March, 1667, but Mr. Bowers sends me

a copy of the entry of baptism of "Wolstan Dixie, the sunn of Mr. Beaumont Dixie, Squire," on 25 March, 1657.

Dr. Birkbeck Hill, alluding to Sir Wolstan Dixie's harsh treatment of Johnson, says ('Boswell,' vol. i. p. 84, foot-note) that "the patron's manners were those of the neighbourhood," and quotes the following passage from Hutton, who visited Bosworth in 1770:—

"The inhabitants set their dogs at me merely because I was a stranger. Surrounded with impassable roads, no intercourse with man to humanize the mind, no commerce to smooth their rugged manners, they continue the boors of nature."

Nichols, however, makes actual reference to the condition of Bosworth about the date when Johnson was employed there ('Leicestershire,' vol. iv. p. 499):—

"Bosworth, about the year 1730, was famous for the resort of the neighbouring gentry; who came regularly twice a week, for pleasure and amusement, to the bowling-green of Simon Oakden. At that period, this was reckoned the genteel part of the county; several coaches and six being kept within a few miles of it."

This makes it seem very unlikely that the inhabitants were then "the boors of nature," or that Bosworth was "surrounded with impassable roads." The greatest sportsman in the district at that time must have been Johnson's connexion Thomas Boothby of Tooley Park, not six miles away.

A Centenarian Kinswoman of Dr. Johnson.—*The Standard* for 14 Jan., 1908, contained an announcement of the death, at St. Ives, Hunts, on 11 Jan., of Ann Brunskill Rowlandson, in her 101st year. This old lady (as stated in my book, p. 183) was the only child of Samuel Rowlandson, of London, merchant, by Penelope (1776-1808) his first wife, daughter of Cornelius Harrison (1743-1806), of Stubb House, co. Durham, who was the only son of the Rev. Cornelius Harrison (1699?-1748), Perpetual Curate of Darlington—that worthy cleric whom the Doctor, his first cousin, described as "the only one of my relations who ever rose in fortune above penury, or in character above neglect"; though for his father, John Harrison, Johnson had nothing but dislike and contempt.

Miss Rowlandson's nephew, Mr. Reginald M. Osborne, of St. Ives, tells me that

"up to within a few days of her death she retained all her faculties, and in fact, only two days before, she drew a cheque in payment of some tradesman's account. She was always very proud of her connexion with Dr. Johnson, and was a great admirer of him."

Mr. Osborne has also kindly sent me a copy of *The Huntingdonshire Post* for 18 Jan., containing some account of his aunt :—

"Up to a very short time before her decease she retained all her faculties, and took a great interest in everything that was going on around her. She was a great reader, and her recollections of bygone events were always interesting. Her loss will be deeply felt by her nephews and nieces, her sweet disposition and kind heart having endeared her to them all. She will also be missed by the numerous charities which she subscribed to, and by her poorer neighbours, to whose appeals she was ever ready to respond. We understand that she has left a sum of 500*l.* to augment the living of All Saints' Church, St. Ives, and 50*l.* for the Hunts County Hospital."

From this same account I learn that Miss Rowlandson, who was buried at Fenstanton, was born on 16 Jan., 1807, and was thus within five days of her 101st birthday; and that her father, Samuel Rowlandson, second son of Richard Rowlandson, of Dalton Hall, Kirby Ravensworth, was born in April, 1773, and married Penelope Harrison in 1806. Samuel Rowlandson married again after Penelope's early death, and had another daughter, Susannah, who married Martin Allpress Osborne, of St. Ives, and had issue, including Mr. Reginald M. Osborne. Martin Allpress Osborne died on 5 Nov., 1899, aged 89, and his wife on 24 Sept., 1899, aged 75; both are buried in the family vault at Fenstanton. The Martin Osborne of St. Ives who, as I stated, married Penelope (*née* Whytell), widow of Miss Rowlandson's uncle Thomas Harrison (1779-1842), of Stubb House—"notorious for swearing and overbearing conduct"—was, Mr. R. M. Osborne tells me, his own grandfather, the father of Martin Allpress Osborne. Mrs. Harrison must have been an old lady when she married Martin Osborne, for at her death on 23 Dec., 1869, she was aged "nearly 100." Miss Rowlandson's first cousin, the late General Plantagenet-Harrison (1817-90), that most eccentric of antiquaries, has recorded for all time in his ambitious, but uncompleted 'History of Yorkshire,' that his uncle Thomas Harrison was "a vagabond over head and ears in debt," who "died like a dog in June, 1842"; while Mrs. Harrison, in addition to having had insufficient sense of shame to prevent her being "born in a cart by the wayside, and never baptized," was "the finest specimen of a hypocrite I ever saw."

* Miss Rowlandson, whose will was proved for 6,767*l.*, also left 450*l.* to the Salisbury Church Union Society, and 400*l.* to the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation.

Dr. Johnson's Early Visit to Trysull.—In my book I was able to show (pp. 141-4) that Mrs. Harriotts, the elderly lady of means whom Michael Johnson "willingly disgusted" by his failure to observe the Sabbath as strictly as she desired, was Elizabeth (1661-1728), wife of Robert Harriotts, only daughter of William Barnesley (1618-85), of Trysull, Staffs.—described by Plot as "a good old Gentleman"—by Elizabeth (1622-97) his wife, daughter of Henry Ford, and sister of Dr. Johnson's grandfather, Cornelius Ford (1632-1709). Mrs. Harriotts, whom Johnson described as "my mother's relation," was thus first cousin to Mrs. Johnson. As late as 1770 the Doctor noted that he "never yet saw a regular family unless it were that of Mrs. Harriots." In his 'Annals' he tells us :—

"In the second year I knew not what happened to me. I believe it was then that my mother carried me to Trysul, to consult Dr. Atwood, an oculist of Worcester."

I am now in a position to produce virtually conclusive evidence as to the very house in which Mrs. Harriotts lived at Trysull. This was the Manor House, the old home of the Barnesleys, which, save for some later additions, stands now much as it did two hundred years ago. It is of considerable interest to identify what is probably the first house at which Samuel Johnson stayed after his birth at Lichfield, and provide the Johnsonian enthusiast with another shrine to which he may make pleasant pilgrimage.

For the evidence on this point I am principally indebted to my friend Mrs. Morris (formerly Anne Blanche Smythe), of The Leasowes, Church Stretton, who is herself interested in genealogy. Mrs. Morris is the youngest of the three daughters and coheirs of the late Col. Thomas Smythe (1808-79), of Hilton, near Bridgnorth (see Burke's 'Landed Gentry,' under 'Monckton of Hilton'), by Mary, daughter of Rear-Admiral Deans. Her grandfather, John Groome Smythe (1771-1835), D.L., of Hilton, who in 1805 married Anne Parke, sister of Lord Wensleydale, was son of Thomas Smythe, of Hilton, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Wannerton Groome, of Trysull, in 1770. Wannerton Groome, as I showed in my book, was the sole executor of the will of Mrs. Harriotts at her death in 1728, and inherited her property at Trysull. Wannerton Groome, who married Mary Deacon (died 1778) in 1721, and died in 1748, being buried at Trysull, was son of Giles Groome by Sarah, daughter of Ralph

Wannerton. This Ralph Wannerton had in 1653 married Elizabeth Barnesley, of Trysull, sister of William Barnesley, father of Mrs. Harriotts. Wannerton Groome's mother, Sarah Wannerton, was thus first cousin to Mrs. Harriotts.

The Barnesleys are said to have lived at the Manor House, Trysull, for some generations before the time of Johnson's great-uncle William Barnesley. At his death in 1685 the property must have gone to his son, William Barnesley the younger, who died in 1690, leaving his sister Elizabeth, wife of Robert Harriotts, heir to the estate. This worthy lady, as I have already stated, left her estates at Trysull and elsewhere to her "loving kinsman Wannerton Groome." When he died, in 1748, the Trysull estate went to his son John Groome, who married Anna Maria Stubbs, and died, without issue, in 1799, leaving it to his widow. She died in 1803, leaving the estate in trust, with the option to Henry Jesson of purchasing it at a valuation. Henry Jesson (1764-1841) was her husband's nephew, the only surviving son of the Rev. Cornelius Jesson* (1724-78), Vicar of Enmore and Pawlett, Somerset, who had married Mary, elder daughter of Wannerton Groome, in 1758. Henry Jesson, who started life as a lawyer in Wolverhampton, but became a surgeon, took advantage of the clause in Mrs. Groome's will, as is evidenced by the following memorandum made by him:—

"Particulars of my [Henry Jesson's] purchase of the Trysull Estate. Mrs. Groome died 1803, leaving the estate in trust, to have it valued and offered to me. I paid the purchase money for it, 8,470*l.* 3*s.*, on July 17th, 1805. Mr. Groome inherited it from his father, who had it from Mrs. Harriotts, a distant relation, dau. of Mr. Barnesley."

Henry Jesson took up his residence at the Manor House at Michaelmas, 1811.† By his wife, Sarah Wilkes, whom he married in 1798, he had two sons, the Rev. Cornelius Jesson (1800-69), Rector of Enville, and Henry Jesson (1802-53), who both died un-

married. The younger son seems to have inherited the property, for it was Henry Jesson who lived at the Manor House, added to it a drawing-room and a laundry, and finally willed it to his second cousin, Col. Thomas Smythe, father of Mrs. Morris. But perhaps the Rev. Cornelius Jesson had a life interest in the estate, for Mrs. Morris tells me that her father only came into possession of it in 1869. After letting it twice for short periods, Col. Smythe went to live at the Manor House with his family in 1873. On his death in 1879 it became the property of his three daughters, who in 1894 sold it to Mr. B. Howard Mander, who now occupies it. Mrs. Morris thinks that John Groome parted with a good proportion of the estate, which was further reduced by his nephew Henry Jesson.

I think the foregoing account of the descent of the Barnesley estate at Trysull will convince any one that it was at the Manor House that Mrs. Harriotts lived, and that to it the infant Johnson was brought by his mother. There can, moreover, be little doubt that Johnson visited Mrs. Harriotts when he was older, else he could scarcely have claimed that nowhere else had he seen a "regular family." The Johnsons evidently saw a good deal of Mrs. Harriotts, and we know that she left Mrs. Johnson 40*l.* and some useful domestic articles. The Doctor remembered of his father that, "mentioning her legacy in the humility of distress, he called her *our good Cousin Harriotts*." Trysull is not very far from Lichfield—scarcely twenty miles as the crow flies—and from Stourbridge, where Johnson was sent to school in 1725, it is distant but seven miles.

Apart from this evidence, Mrs. Morris tells me that she does not think that Trysull contains any other house in which a lady of some consequence, like Mrs. Harriotts, would be likely to live. But by way of completing the proof Mrs. Morris informs me that the various rooms alluded to in the will of William Barnesley in 1684, in the inventory of his widow's goods in 1697, and in the will of their daughter Mrs. Harriotts in 1726, as given in my book (pp. 189, 190, 194), accord perfectly with the Manor House, of the ground floor and first floor of which she sends me sketch-plans with all the rooms identified.

The Manor House, Mrs. Morris tells me, is only a short distance from Trysull Church, on the road which runs in a westerly direction

* This Rev. Cornelius Jesson was a son of another Rev. Cornelius Jesson (1689-1756), Vicar of Wombourne and Trysull, who was second cousin to Dr. Johnson (as shown in the tabular Pedigree XXIX. in my book), being a grandson of George Jesson (1620-78), of West Bromwich, who in 1643 married the Doctor's great-aunt Mary Ford (1620-63). These Jessons were Balliol men.

† From the 'Rugby School Register,' vol. i. p. 110, I learn that among the pupils entered at Midsummer, 1811, were Cornelius Jesson, son of Henry Jesson, Esq., Trysull, Wolverhampton, aged 10 in Oct., and Henry Jesson, son of the same, aged 9 in Jan.

towards Seisdon. Standing only a stone's throw from the road, it is built partly of brick and partly of stone, but is now completely covered with stucco. On the beam over the porch is incised the date 1663, which must have been placed there by William Barnesley, who six years earlier had married Dr. Johnson's great-aunt.

Desiring to settle the identity of "Dr. Attwood, an oculist of Worcester," whom Mrs. Harriotts brought to Trysull to examine Johnson's eyes, I wrote to Mr. T. A. Carless Attwood, M.A., F.S.A., of Sion Hill, Wolverley, near Kidderminster, who has devoted much care to the Attwood pedigree. He tells me that he knows of but one medical Attwood connected with Worcester at that period. This was Dr. Thomas Attwood, of Beverè, in the parish of Claines, and of Powick, both quite close to Worcester, who died an old man in 1765. I find an obituary notice of him in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for that year (p. 491): "[Sept.] 30. Dr. Atwood, a physician at Worcester, aged 83."

Mr. Attwood tells me that he was a prominent Roman Catholic in his neighbourhood, and is frequently mentioned in papers of the period relating to that body. His age is understated rather than overstated in the obituary, for Mr. Attwood says that his next younger brother, Peter Attwood, was born in 1682. In 1711, when he examined Johnson's eyes, Thomas must have been close on thirty years of age.

Dr. Thomas Attwood was a man of good family, eldest son of George Attwood, of Beverè, Esq. (died 17 Feb., 1732, aged 80), by Winifred his wife (died 14 Dec., 1714, aged 77), daughter and heir of the Hon. Thomas Petre, fifth son of William, second Lord Petre. There is a mural monument in Claines Church to George and Winifred Attwood (Nash's 'Worcestershire,' vol. ii. Supplement, p. 19); on which is also recorded the death (on 17 Feb., 1707, aged 76) of Mrs. Attwood's sister, Ann Petre, who, Mr. Attwood tells me, in her will of 1706/7, mentions her nephew Dr. Thomas Attwood.

The will of Thomas Attwood, of Powick, co. Worcester, gent., dated 18 Jan., 1763, was, I find, proved on 3 Jan., 1766, in P.C.C. (1 Tyndall), by Thomas Hornyold, of Blackmore Park, Esq., one of the executors, power being reserved to the others, who were the testator's wife Frances, and Robert Berkeley, Esq., of Spetchley, co. Worcester. In it he leaves 50*l.* apiece to his nieces Ursula and

Mary Attwood; and 100*l.* to John Hunter, "prentice to Asene the Carpenter in Worcester." To his dear wife Frances he leaves 300*l.*, as well as the contents of his house in Powick; and makes her residuary legatee. To Mr. Thomas Hornyold, of London, packer, and to Mr. John Hornyold, of Longbireh, Staffs, he leaves 500*l.* each; and a like sum to Robert Berkeley. Each of his servants is to have a year's wages; and Mr. Henry Berrington, of Cowarne, co. Hereford, 100*l.* James Smith and George Newman witness the will.

There was a Thomas, son of Anthony Attwood, of Elmbridge, co. Worcester, gent., who matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, on 2 April, 1690, aged 15, and took his B.A. degree in 1693. Mr. Attwood tells me that this Thomas has been described as an M.B.; but he lived at Chaddesley Corbett,* where he died in 1718, and seems to have had no connexion with Worcester.

There is no reason for doubting that it was Dr. Thomas Attwood, of Powick, by Worcester, who attended the infant Johnson. Worcester is some twenty-five miles south of Trysull.

"Parson" Ford.—Since writing my previous note on the "Parson" (*ante*, p. 8) I have come across what is apparently another reference to him. In Nichols's 'Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century' (vol. i. pp. 223-7) is given a letter written from St. John's College, Cambridge, on 6 May, 1722, by Vere Foster, a Fellow of the College, "a good scholar, and of great wit and humour," to James Bonwicke, son of Ambrose Bonwicke, in which is quoted a humorous poem entitled 'Mr. Prior's† Lamentation for the Loss of Mrs. Joanna Bentley,' described as having "been a long time the vogue at every tea-table in college." In this poem occur the lines:—

But, O! the lordly haughtiness of mien,
And all the father† in the daughter seen!
That unaffected modesty of mind,
Which nor in Green nor Ford improv'd we find.

After the poem is given a series of notes upon it, intended to explain some of the

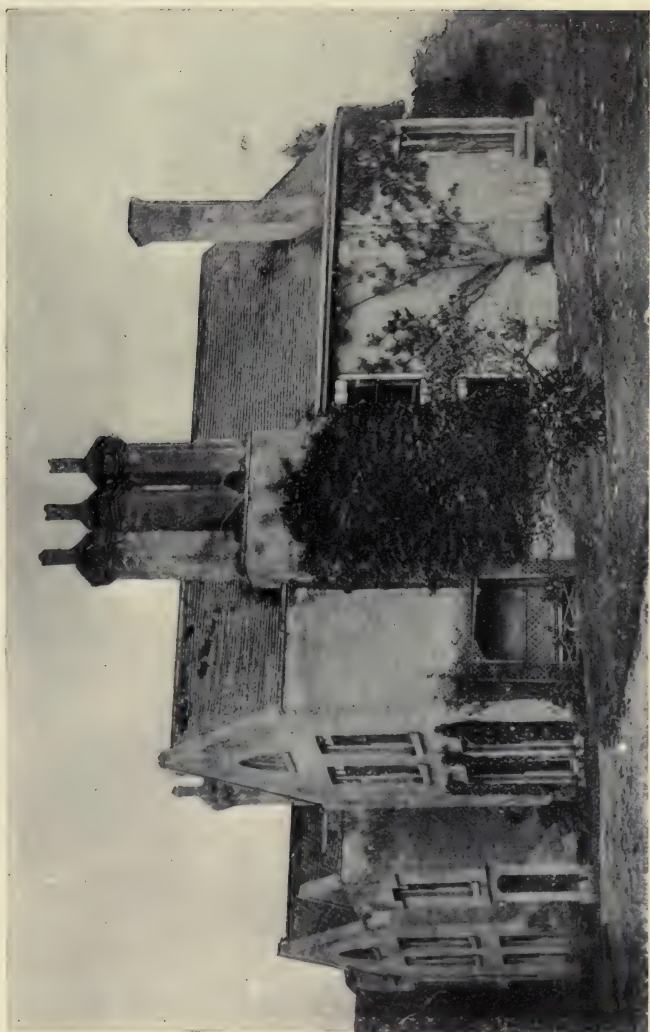
* John, son of Thomas Attwood, of Chaddesley, co. Worcester, gent., matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, on 9 March, 1725/6, aged 16; and took his B.A. degree on 13 Feb., 1729/30.

† Edward Prior, of Trinity.

‡ Joanna was a daughter of the celebrated Richard Bentley, Master of Trinity. She married Denison Cumberland, and was mother of the well-known Richard Cumberland (1732-1811).



THE MANOR HOUSE, TRYSULL.



allusions and develope the humour, among which is the following :—

"The characters of Green and Ford, you are well enough acquainted with; only observe the compliment."

Nichols adds a foot-note on Ford :—

"The latter, we imagine, was the same Mr. Ford who was afterwards as well known by his being Chaplain to Lord Chesterfield as by his abandoned, unclerical character, and of whom it is recorded, that, on his being refused the same appointment in Ireland, when his noble Patron was Lord Lieutenant, being told that it was owing to his want of one vice; and wondering what that vice could be, was answered '*Hypocrisy*.'"^{*}

It does seem extremely probable that the poet's irony was directed against Dr. Johnson's cousin, who in that case must have acquired some reputation for being self-appreciative. As recorded in my book (p. 158), Cornelius Ford had entered St. John's College in 1710, and taken his B.A. degree in 1713; while his M.A. degree he had taken from Peterhouse in 1720. Mr. R. F. Scott, the Master of St. John's, who is an earnest student of all that concerns the personal history of those connected with his College, tells me that there was no other Cambridge graduate of the name of Ford about that time except Thomas Ford, who took his B.A. degree from Christ's College in 1691, and his M.A. in 1697, and who, as Mr. Scott says, hardly fits in with the other names mentioned in the poem.† The "Green" who is bracketed with Ford was, Mr. Scott thinks, probably one Richard Green, who took his LL.B. degree from Peterhouse in 1722, and who would therefore be more or less a contemporary of Cornelius Ford's. According to Nichols, the person alluded to "was supposed to be the learned Dr. John Green, who died Bishop of Lincoln in 1779." This identification would be more interesting, as it was John Green who, on leaving Cambridge, went to Lichfield as assistant master under the Rev. John

Hunter, and there made the acquaintance of Johnson and Garrick; but his dates seem to me to destroy his claim. Mr. Scott clinches this argument by stating that John Green did not enter St. John's until 10 June, 1724, his age being then given as "past 17."

In the same volume (p. 221) Nichols gives some account of "Dr. Christopher Anstey, fellow of St. John's, for some time a tutor in that college," who, as mentioned in my book (p. 159), was "Parson" Ford's tutor and surety. His son, another Christopher Anstey (1724-1805), became famous as the author of the 'New Bath Guide.'

Rev. George Plaxton and Michael Johnson.
—No contemporary evidence in favour of Michael Johnson having been a man of exceptional attainments can be adduced except the extract from a letter written by the Rev. George Plaxton from Trentham on St. Peter's Day, 1716 :—

"Johnson, the Litchfield Librarian, is now here; he propagates learning all over this diocese, and advanceth knowledge to its just height; all the Clergy here are his Pupils, and suck all they have from him; Allen cannot make a warrant without his precedent, nor our quondam John Evans draw a recognizance *sine directione Michaelis*."

This extract was first made public by a correspondent of *The Gentleman's Magazine* in October, 1791, and was incorporated by Boswell in his great work, in the form of a foot-note, "to show the high estimation in which the Father of our great Moralists was held" (Boswell's 'Johnson,' ed. Birkbeck Hill, vol. i. p. 36). The letter, strangely enough, was one of a series addressed principally to the Rev. Francis Skrymsher, Rector of Forton, Salop (see my book, p. 258), a kinsman of the Dr. Gerard Skrymsher with whom Michael Johnson was closely connected. Plaxton, at the time, is said to have been acting as chaplain to John, second Lord Gower (1694-1754), created first Earl Gower in 1746; the same who on 1 Aug., 1739, wrote a letter to a friend of Swift's, asking that the University of Dublin should confer a degree on Samuel Johnson.

A great deal has been made of Plaxton's letter, and on the strength of its terms Michael Johnson has been credited with a degree of educated intelligence which I hesitate to allow him. Macaulay, whose constant desire to draw his pictures in bold relief left him with little inclination for that sober investigation which would rob his fascinating pictures of much of their light

* This is a lame version of Cibber's original story, which is fully discussed in my book (pp. 160-61). And the reference should be to the Hague, not to Ireland. Lord Chesterfield was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from July, 1745, to April, 1746, some fourteen years after "Parson" Ford's death.

† Mr. Scott says that "Brathwait," the "gentleman of Catharine hall; an elegantly-made man," was no doubt Mark Brathwayt, LL.B. 1723 and LL.D. 1728—the "gentleman" showing that he was not yet a graduate. "Grim Thornton," introduced to us as "a gentleman of Trinity, junior bachelor, who lately shook hands with learning, and now professes gallantry," he identifies with Jonathan Thornton, B.A. 1721-2, and M.A. 1725.

and shade, found Plaxton's letter excellent material for his brush, and splashed it boldly on to his canvas :—

"Michael's abilities and attainments seem to have been considerable. He was so well acquainted with the contents of the volumes which he exposed to sale, that the country rectors of Staffordshire and Worcestershire thought him an oracle on points of learning."—Macaulay's 'Biographies,' 1860, p. 77.

Passing lightly over the clear internal evidence of Macaulay's belief that the Trentham district of Staffordshire was contiguous to Worcestershire, or that the two counties were contained in the same diocese—a small blunder for which he would have gibbeted another author—we may pronounce this passage to be founded upon a much too literal interpretation of Plaxton's letter. In my book (p. 214), in an account of Michael Johnson, on the strength of a document in his own handwriting and composition, I threw considerable doubt upon his claim to possess more culture than we should expect in any intelligent provincial bookseller. I now wish to lay stress upon the fact that Plaxton was an inveterate humorist, and that familiarity with his satirical method of expression will do much to destroy such an impression as his sentences seem to have produced on Macaulay.

Having failed to discover any note on Plaxton in any edition of Boswell, or in any other Johnsonian work, I recently contributed to 'N. & Q.' (10 S. x. 301, 422, 503) a moderately full account of his life and character. The record of his clerical preferences will be found in the first of the three papers.

Plaxton was a conscientious and devoted minister of the Gospel, who laboured zealously for the welfare of his flock, and even interested himself in social reforms; but it is as an antiquary, and a friend of Thoresby, that he is best known to us. The diary of the Yorkshire antiquary contains numerous references to him, indicative of considerable personal regard. Plaxton was also known to Thomas Hearne, who described him soon after his death as "a very ingenious man and a good scholar," who "loved antiquities." He subscribed to various antiquarian works; but his own labours did not produce much fruit.

If my account of Plaxton established one fact more than another, it is that he possessed what Thoresby called a "jocular temper and satirical wit (which displeaseth some, and pleaseth many)." Though for many years he suffered from ill-health and a most

painful disorder, he rarely put pen to paper without giving free rein to his peculiar humour, which, though usually rather satirical, is never unkindly. In the light of this knowledge we can gauge much more accurately the value of his tribute to Michael Johnson, which was clearly written in a spirit of banter. A bookseller of any standing would of course be a rare bird in an out-of-the-way village like Trentham, and no doubt Mr. Plaxton recognized in Michael Johnson an honest and intelligent tradesman; but whether his remarks "show the high estimation in which the Father of our great Moralists was held," so much as Mr. Plaxton's amused contempt for the ignorance of the country clergy, may be questioned. In a letter on the subject to *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1829 (part ii. p. 312), Mr. James Broughton pleads that "we surely are not to interpret in a strictly literal sense the words of a jocose epistle," and suggests that it referred to Michael Johnson's dissemination of literature rather than to the stimulating effect of his own culture. But this suggestion scarcely covers the latter part of Mr. Plaxton's "tribute."

I find it rather difficult to explain the concluding portion of Plaxton's letter. The context would seem to suggest that "Allen" and "John Evans" were local clergymen, yet making warrants and drawing recognizances are rather legal tasks. It is worth noting that the Rector of Stoke-on-Trent at this date was the Rev. Thomas Allen, afterwards Archdeacon of Stafford and Dean of Chester (Rupert Simms's 'Bibliotheca Staffordiensis'). Stoke is only three miles from Trentham. As a legal friend has suggested to me, Allen may have been a justice of the peace, to whom the local constables went for assistance. As to "John Evans," it appears that a man of that name was Rector of Stockton, Salop, from 1690, whom Foster ('*Alumni Oxonienses*') is inclined to identify with John, son of William Evans, of Bridgnorth, *pleb.*, who matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, on 3 June, 1677, aged fifteen. Stockton is barely six miles from Donington, where Mr. Plaxton had been Rector, also from 1690. Evans might have acted as an amateur attorney, as the country clergy often did. These explanations, though the best I can offer, do not quite satisfy me, and, if they cannot be substantiated, I shall be glad of any others that accord with the evidence. And why "our *quondam* John Evans"?

The Rev. Samuel Lea and Newport School.
—In my book (pp. 247-8) I gave some particulars of the Rev. Samuel Lea, to whom Michael Johnson is said to have made unsuccessful application that his son Samuel should be admitted, "as a scholar and assistant," to Newport Grammar School. From the late H. S. Grazebrook's notes on the pedigree of 'Lea of Clayton,' recorded at the Visitation of Staffordshire in 1664, (Wm. Salt Arch. Soc., 'Staffordshire Collections,' vol. v. pt. 2, p. 200), it appears that he was the younger son of Thomas Lea* of Clayton, who married Hannah Butters of Burslem, on 14 May, 1681, and died 3 May, 1729. The elder son, Clayton Lea, died 24 March, 1735/6. The will of Clayton Lea, of Clayton, Staffs, gent., was, I find, dated 19 March, 1735/6, and proved at Lichfield 6 May, 1736. He asks to be buried in Stoke churchyard, near the chancel door, in the grave where lie the bodies of his wife, his grandfather Butters, and his father Lea. He mentions a mortgage of 750*l.* due to "Brother Samuel at Newport." That he was really one of a large family is clear: he mentions his brother John's widow and her two daughters; his brother Joseph and his three children; his brother Thomas and his wife; his brother Jonathan and his children, Hannah, Thomas, and Elizabeth; his nephew Charles Lea, to whom he leaves his house in Cross Pavement Head at Nantwich; and his godson Clayton Lea.† He also mentions his sister Smith and "all her children"; and his sister-in-law Deborah Midlefell, whom he appoints executrix. He leaves a shilling apiece to his brother Samuel's children.

Michael Johnson's application must have been made in 1725 or 1726. Now, as I showed, the inscription in Newport Church described Lea, at his death on 4 Jan., 1773, aged 84, as having been 47 years master of the school; while *The Gentleman's Magazine* put his mastership at only 45 years. Either figure left room for doubt as to whether Lea really was master at the time of Michael

Johnson's application. For the settling of this point I applied to Mr. John Eagleton, Clerk of the Haberdashers' Company, who kindly devoted a whole morning to searching for information concerning Lea among the records of the Company, who are the patrons of the school. He discovered that the Rev. Samuel Lea was appointed head master of Newport Grammar School, by the Court of the Company, on 26 May, 1725, a date which left me full power to believe the tale told to Boswell by Bishop Percy.

Samuel Lea does not appear to have matriculated at Oxford. Mr. R. F. Scott tells me that there was a man of the name who took his B.A. degree at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1709, and his M.A. in 1725. The dates are very suitable, so that there can be small doubt the Newport school-master was from Jesus College.

In the course of his search Mr. Eagleton discovered a bundle of some eighteen letters written by Lea to the Clerk of the Company. Most of them deal with the question of repairs to Newport School; but of two which are of some personal interest Mr. Eagleton kindly allowed me to obtain copies. These are valuable as revealing something of Lea's personality, and as throwing light upon the condition of the school which declined to receive Samuel Johnson, and upon the difficulties against which the new head master had to contend. The earlier letter is dated from Newport, 23 Nov., 1730, and is addressed to Jerome Knapp, Esq., at Haberdashers' Hall, London:—

HONOUR'D & DEAR S^r

You was pleas'd to mention in one of your Letters that you doubted not but by the Assistance of our Country Visitors Newport School wou'd easily be continu'd in its present flourishing Condition, I assure you (S^r) most if not all of y^e Visitors I found here were ready to do me ill Offices, the malevolent Spirit, I found amongst 'em, is abated, but I still meet with Difficulties w^{ch} I wish my best care and conduct will be able to surmount.

Since my Worshipfull Patrons did us the Honour to visit our School, their as well as my Enemies have industriously publish'd thro' 3 Counties many things to sink the Reputation of our School, I never heard indeed that their Rancour [here a blot] reach'd so far to call my Qualifications for my Business into Question, the frequent Testimonies of my late Diocesan (the present Bishop of Durham) had put that out of Dispute who had ordain'd very many of my Scholars,* and (pardon me for saying so) my

* Thomas Lea was aged 6 on 27 April, 1664. His father Clayton Lea, of Clayton, aged 36 on the same date, who married Elizabeth, dau. of John Cradock, on 4 Dec., 1647, and died 5 June, 1689, was son of Thomas Lea, of Nantwich, Cheshire, by Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Clayton, of Nantwich.

† It appears likely from one clause of the will that Clayton Lea was the son of his dead brother John; but in another he alludes to his godson, the son of his brother Jonathan, so that the point is not quite clear.

* Edward Chandler (1668?-1750), Bishop of Lichfield from 1717, had only two days before the date of this letter been confirmed as Bishop of Durham.

Industry is too well known to be call'd in Question; In some Places they have publish'd my Death, in others that one of my Gentlemen for want of care had broke his thigh, (who is one of an Honourable Family), another was drown'd and another had lost his Eyes by a gun, & poor Mrs. Lea* is charg'd wth want of due care of the Boarders in the House, tho' every article I have mention'd is false, yet thousands believe most of 'em to be true, my Comfort is I have a just Cause, and Honourable Patrons who will not take every story they hear upon Trust, nor shou'd I have mention'd what I have done but for fear they should be impos'd upon as well as many others are, but my dear friend 'tis time for me to leave Complaints, and talk of Business. According to my Worshipfull Patrons' Order I have sent a Paper sign'd by Mr. Dickenson† as well as myself, I wish the Form agreeable, if it be not I shall be ready to sign any other they shall appoint, for I'm sure their favour is my fortune, & their approbation of what I do, all I wish, all I desire. I am sorry you was out of Town when I wrote my last, Mr. Withers tells me he has carry'd his Point, to w^{ch} (I fancy) the Recommendation of my Worshipfull Patrons did not a little contribute.

Dear Master Jerry‡ is very well, much at your Service, & so is Mrs. Lea as well as

Your dutifull & obliged Serv^t

S. LEA.

P.S.—Christmas draws near, pray let me know your Commands how to proceed about y^e Apprentice Boys, the Charity money, &c.

* Whether this was the first of his four wives I cannot say.

† Mr. Dickenson, the usher, probably John son of Samuel Dickenson, of Newport, Salop, pleb., who matriculated 7 April, 1720, aged 18, from Magdalen Hall, Oxford, and took his B.A. in 1723, as Dickinson (Foster's 'Alumni Oxonienses'). From R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's College, Cambridge,' part iii., p. 128, I learn that Samuel, son of John Dickenson, clerk, Salop, born at Newport and bred there under Mr. Lea, was admitted a pensioner of St. John's, 18 May, 1749, aged past 16. He graduated LL.B., as Dickenson, 1755, became Rector of Blymhill 1777, and died May 22, 1823, aged 90 (*ibid.*, Appendix, p. 589). From Anna Seward's 'Memoirs of the Life of Erasmus Darwin,' 1804, p. 63, I learn that Charles Darwin (1758–78), the eldest uncle of Charles Robert Darwin, was about his twelfth year "committed to the care of the scientific, the learned, the modest, and worthy Mr. Dickinson, now rector of Blimel, in Shropshire."

‡ "Master Jerry" was no doubt the Clerk's son, and a pupil of Mr. Lea's. Jerome Knapp (1687–1740) was clerk of the Haberdashers' Company from 1728 to 1739. His only surviving son, Jerome Knapp (1722–92), was entered a member of the Middle Temple in 1737, called to the Bar in 1749, elected Clerk of the Haberdashers' Company in 1754, and appointed Clerk of Assize of the Home Circuit in the same year; he was elected a Benchler of the Middle Temple in 1778, and Treasurer in 1789. "Master Jerry's" daughter, Mary Ann Knapp, married William Draper Best, first Lord Wynford. See account of Knapp family by Stacey Grimaldi, F.S.A., in *Gent. Mag.*, 1843, pt. 1. pp. 210–11.

The other letter, dated from Newport, 9 Jan., 1747/8, is addressed to Mr. Baker,* at Haberdashers' Hall, London:—

Good S^r

The Receipt of your last prevented my writing to you sooner, my little usual Present was upon y^e Road as you told me you were furnish'd from another Hand I had time to write to a friend in London to receive it. Pray S^r Has not somebody made Complaint to my Worshipful Patrons of y^e Decay of Newport School as well as that at Monmth? Most certain it is that we are not so full as formerly. I waited upon you S^r some years since in a most languishing Condition, being advis'd to go to Town to consult D^r Mead.† That worthy Gentleman told me, That a too great Hurry of Business, and Application to it had brought my Life into Danger, & that I must contract it if I expected Relief, but added that it was quite necessary I shou'd still have some Boys about me, otherwise the runing-out of one Extreme into y^e other would be fatal to me. This Talk S^r alarm'd my Wife, my 7 children, & my Friends. I had at that time near forty Boarders in my House, most or all them were loth to part from me, & I as unwilling to turn my Back upon them: in the space of near 5 years most of these are gone off to Business, & as I took in very few to supply their Places our School must be much impair'd. We have still however more Boarders than any School in y^e County, nor will I ever slacken my Diligence as long as I have y^e Honour to serve my Patrons. This favour I hope will not be deny'd, That I may still reduce my number of Boarders, and take in no new ones. I have been their School-master here more than 22 years, & have follow'd the laborious Employment more than 30, wth some success. About 13 months since 3 of my Boarders went off together to Oxford, another young Gentleman of very great Fortune follow'd them in May last, several others too are likely gone off to Business. However the following Catalogue of Boarders in the House when our school broke up for Christmas will convince you that our School is in credit.

Pearson, Staffordshire—Ashwood, Shropshire—Lane, Shrop.—Holland, Herefordshire—Foley, Worcestershire—Conyngham, Dublin—Mason, Staff.—Eleock, Cheshire—Wood, Stafford—Lea, Shrop.—Lovatt, Staff.—Wood, Staff.—Cartwright, London—Stubbs, Shrop.—Dicken, Shrop.‡

Mr. Dickenson (the Usher) gives me an account of 8 Boarders, 6 of whom are day Scholars to me, besides these we have a good number of Boarders in the Town, the greatest Part of 'em are under the immediate Care of y^e Usher, few of these attain to the Upper End of y^e School unless they are design'd for y^e Law, University, &c.

Will you be pleas'd S^r to send us Directions to hold a Visitation, to elect Scholars for y^e University, I would humbly recommend to my

* "Fotherby Baker, Esq., clerk of the haberdashers' company," died 10 May, 1754 (*Gent. Mag.*, p. 243).

† Richard Mead (1673–1754), the distinguished physician.

‡ These names are written in parallel columns, and are all bracketed under a respectful "Mast^r."

Worshipful Patrons, Charles Cotes, Esq^r M.D.*
 Robt. Pigott Esq^r.† The Rever^d Mr Binrell, y^e
 Rev^d Mr Saunders, and y^e Rever^d Mr Hughs
 to fill up the number of Visitors in y^e Room of
 those deceased. Pardon me Sr for giving you
 the Trouble of this very long letter, my humble
 Duty waits upon my Patrons, & I am

S^r
 Your most obedient & obliged Serv^t
 S. LEA.

My Wife desires you will accept a little Ham
 wh^{ch} will be at y^e George & White Hart Inn in
 Aldersgate Street on Saturday y^e 16th Instant
 Car. p^d.

It will be noticed in this letter that Lea
 states he has been a schoolmaster for over
 thirty years, which carries us back to 1717
 or earlier. On 6 June, 1716, one Thomas
 Whitaker, a native of Bucknall, afterwards
 Rector of Ashton-upon-Mersey, was admitted
 to St. John's College, Cambridge, the
 register stating that he had been bred at
 Stoke, under "Mr. Lea," for four years
 (R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's
 College,' pt. iii. pp. 5, 302). There can be
 scarcely a doubt that "Mr. Lea" was the
 Rev. Samuel Lea, who, as Grazebrook's
 notes on the pedigree already referred to
 show, was described as "of Bucknall,"
 which is in Stoke parish. Samuel Lea, as
 I mentioned in my book (p. 248), was curate
 of Bucknall in 1718, and his son Samuel was
 born at Stoke about 1725. Three of Lea's
 Newport pupils entered St. John's College,
 Cambridge: Robert Moreton in 1733,
 Thomas Gough in 1738, and Samuel Dickin-
 son (as mentioned before) in 1749. Evidently
 Newport scholars went to Oxford rather than
 Cambridge.

Dr. John Turton.—In the account I gave
 in my book of Dr. Turton (pp. 111-12),
 the celebrated physician—who as son of
 Dorothy Hickman, the subject of Johnson's
 early sonnet, and grandson of Gregory
 Hickman of Stourbridge (the half-brother
 of "Parson" Ford, and whole brother of
 Jane Hickman, who married Johnson's
 uncle Nathaniel Ford), could claim various
 Johnsonian connexions—I pointed out that
 his best title to fame, now that his purely
 professional successes have ceased to interest
 us much, lies in the fact that he attended
 Goldsmith during his last illness in 1774,
 and that he also attended some of the
 inmates of Johnson's London house.

* Charles Cotes, B.A., D.C.L., M.D., M.P. for
 Tamworth, died 21 March, 1748. See Foster's
 'Alumni Oxonienses.'

† Robert Pigott, of Chetwynd Park, Salop,
 died May, 1770. See Foster's 'Alum. Oxon.'

Since then I have found evidence of his
 association with several other persons emi-
 nent in art and letters. Most interesting
 is the fact of his early friendship with
 David Garrick, with which, perhaps, Johnson
 had something to do. In a letter from
 Venice, dated 14 July, 1764, Joseph Baretti
 shows a sympathetic yet practical interest
 in the health of the great actor's wife
 ('Private Correspondence of David Garrick,'
 1831, vol. i. p. 173):—

"As to the soap-plaister, I find Mr. Turton is
 not against it, and Mr. Righellini approved of it
 too. Nay, Turton says, that soap in sciatic
 complaints is set down as a good remedy in an
 English Dispensary."

Writing to his friend Mr. Arden from
 Munich on 15 Sept., 1764, Garrick remarks
 (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 175):—

"By the greatest good luck Turton was our
 fellow-traveller to this place, and would not stir
 from me till his great care had made me able to
 pursue my journey to Augsburg, which we
 intend to do to-morrow, when he will turn off
 for Ratisbon and to Vienna."

Turton, as yet only a young man of
 twenty-eight, had in 1761 obtained a
 Radcliffe travelling fellowship at University
 College, Oxford, and begun to study medicine
 at Leyden.* A warm tribute is paid him by
 the Rev. Thomas Kennedy, a Catholic
 priest, in a letter to Garrick, dated
 from Munich, 26 Aug., 1766 (*ibid.*, vol. i.
 p. 238):—

"I have heard nothing from our good friend
 Mr. Turton, since he left us; I am afraid he will
 have much ado to bring his bones back to England,
 his constitution being so broke. I am really
 sorry for it, for I love him, and he deserves to
 be beloved as a learned and worthy gentleman;
 the only fault I find in him is, that he hath too
 much faith in physic, and thereby I am afraid
 he will ruin the remainder of his health by making
 too much use of it."

On 17 Jan., 1767, John Wilkes writes to
 Garrick from Paris, sending his letter by
 Turton, then about to start for England
 (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 249). The young physician,
 now making very rapid advance in his
 profession, is mentioned in a letter of Lord
 Mansfield's to Garrick on 23 March, 1768
 (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 295):—

"I shall always be extremely glad of the
 pleasure of seeing you: our friend Dr. Turton
 has promised me to prevail upon you to do me
 the favour to dine with me, when you have a
 little leisure."

* "It is wonderful how little good Radcliffe's
 travelling fellowships have done," said Johnson
 not many months before his death (Hill's 'Bos-
 well,' vol. iv. p. 293).

On 19 May, 1768, Lord and Lady Mansfield send a formal note to Dr. Turton, desiring him to "engage Mr. and Mrs. Garrick to name some day next week to do them the favour to dine with them at Kenwood" (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 301).

In August of the same year we find Dr. Turton attending his patient Lord Edward Bentinck; and also acting as temporary medical adviser to Sir Charles Whitworth during an illness ('Mrs. Delany's Autobiography and Correspondence,' ed. Lady Llanover, 1862, vol. iv. pp. 152-3). From a letter of Mrs. Delany's to Viscountess Andover on 25 Sept., 1776, it appears that "Dr. and Mrs. Turton" had recently been her guests at Bulstrode. "Dr. Turton's prescriptions soon abated my fever," remarks the same excellent lady in a letter dated 1 March, 1777 (*ibid.*, vol. v. p. 289); and in a letter of 20 June, 1777, received by her from the Hon. Mrs. Frances Evelyn Boscawen, Dr. Turton is also mentioned. On 10 Jan., 1778, she speaks to a friend of Dr. Turton having "renounced" her (*ibid.*, vol. v. p. 341); and in her will, made a few weeks later, on 22 Feb., she leaves him ten guineas to buy a ring (*ibid.*, vol. vi. p. 488).

The Rev. John Warner, writing to his friend George Selwyn on 16 Nov., 1779, expresses a hope that he may soon be well enough to be moved to London; and, dissatisfied with his treatment by local doctors, says that he "must hear what Turton and a surgeon will say to it" ('George Selwyn and his Contemporaries,' by J. H. Jesse, 1844, vol. iv. p. 301).

Mrs. Thrale writes as follows to Dr. Johnson on 20 Aug., 1780 ('Letters to and from the late Samuel Johnson, LL.D.,' by Hester Lynch Piozzi, 1788, vol. ii. p. 184):—

"That your two Sultanas are sick is very uncomfortable for you*; may be Dr. Turton may do them good: I never saw Dr. Turton, but my heart, like Clarissa's, naturally leans towards a physician."

Horace Walpole alludes to Turton in several of his letters, the earliest reference being on 26 Oct., 1781, in a letter to the Countess of Upper Ossory ('Walpole's Letters,' ed. Mrs. Paget Toynbee, vol. xii. p. 70).—

"I have heard a very indifferent account of poor Mr. Morrice from Lady Margaret Compton,

who says [Dr. Turton has a bad opinion of him.]"

Writing three days later to Sir Horace Mann, he repeats this information rather more fully (*ibid.*, vol. xii. p. 76):—

"I have heard lately a melancholy account of poor Mr. Morrice. I do not know that he is worse since he went to Bath, but Dr. Turton his physician, I am told, has a bad opinion of him. Still I do not rely entirely on that opinion."

And on 27 Jan., 1782, he writes to the Rev. William Cole in reference to his gout (*ibid.*, vol. xii. pp. 150-51):—

"Next to the bootkins, I ascribe much credit to a diet-drink of dock-roots, of which Dr. Turton asked me for the receipt, as the best he had ever seen, and which I will send you if you please."

From Nichols's 'Literary Illustrations of the Eighteenth Century' (vol. v. p. 33) it appears that Dr. Turton was in attendance on Joseph Gulston, that most extravagant of connoisseurs, from February, 1786, until the patient's death on 16 July of that year, calling regularly twice a day with Dr. Richard Warren.

Mrs. Delany, writing to Frances Hamilton on 3 April, 1787 ('Letters from Mrs. Delany to Mrs. Frances Hamilton,' 3rd ed., 1821, p. 84), thanks God that "Dr. Turton's skill, as well as my apothecary Mr. Young's attention, answered the wishes of my friends."

John Philip Kemble, writing to Edmund Malone from Dublin on 19 July, 1788 (Prior's 'Life of Malone,' p. 147), mentions that Thomas Sheridan, father of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, had sailed on the previous day "for England, to consult in London upon his case (dropsy and jaundice, they say) with Dr. Turton."

"Tom Brown."—In a letter to *The Times Literary Supplement* of 17 Dec., 1908, I mentioned that I had "just succeeded in revealing the identity of 'Tom Brown,' who followed Mrs. Oliver as Johnson's instructor in English."* The brief particulars I gave there may here be expanded, and the evidence recorded in full.

Boswell tells us that Johnson "was first taught to read English by Dame Oliver, a widow, who kept a school for young children in Lichfield." In my book (pp. 246-7) I brought forward almost conclusive evidence to show that this good lady was Ann, the widow of Peter Oliver, a Lichfield shoemaker; and that Peter died in 1704, while his widow's estate was not administered until the end of 1732.* At her death she

* This refers to the illness of Mrs. Desmoulins and Anna Williams, which Johnson had mentioned in recent letters to Mrs. Thrale.

* I find that "Widd^w Oliver" was buried at St. Chad's, Lichfield, on 6 Nov., 1731.

had a small confectionery business, and I suggested that in this fact lay the explanation of "Dame Oliver's" gift of a gingerbread to "the best scholar she ever had," on his departure for Oxford in 1728.

Boswell continues :—

"His next instructor in English was a master, whom, when he spoke of him to me, he familiarly called Tom Brown, who, said he, published a spelling-book, and dedicated it to the UNIVERSE; but, I fear, no copy of it can now be had."

None of the biographers or commentators have been able to tell us anything of this orthographic scholar, so that it afforded me quite a glow of satisfaction to identify him and learn something of his obscure history.

I will start by giving a copy of his will (which was made on 25 July, 1717), omitting the usual religious clause and other parts which have only a legal significance :—

In the name of God Amen I THOMAS BROWN of the City of Lichfield in the county of the said City Schoolmaster being sick and weak but of good perfect and sound memory do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following....First I give devise and bequeath all my household goods and personal estate to my two sons vizt *Peter Brown* of Birmingham in the County of Warwick Clockmaker and *Thomas Brown* of Abbots Bromley in the County of Stafford Currier equally to be divided betwixt them Item I give and bequeath unto my loving sister *Anne Twigg* an annuity or annual summe of four pounds to be paid to her yearly.... out of the rents and profits of my real estate which I do hereby charge with the payment of Item I give devise and bequeath unto my said two sons *Peter Brown* and *Thomas Brown* equally share and share alike all that my messuage burgage house or tenement situate in the said City of Lichfield in a street or place there called Dam Street wherein I formerly lived but now into two tenements divided together with all edifices ways waters and advantages whatsoever thereto belonging And also all those two acres of land lying in a field within the county of the City of Lichfield called Gayfield and also one acre and a half in a field within the county of the said City of Lichfield called Linecroft and also all and every other the messuages lands and tenements whatsoever of me the said *Thomas Brown* wheresoever the same can or may be found....And lastly I do nominate and appoint my said two sons *Peter Brown* and *Thomas Brown* Executors of this my last Will and TestamentIn Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the five and twentieth day of July....1717

Tho: Browne

Now, from the particulars given in my book of the Olivers, it appears that one Thomas Browne appraised the goods of Joan Oliver, mother of Peter Oliver, in 1701*; and that in 1704 Thomas Browne appraised the goods of Peter Oliver himself. Moreover, in 1703 Thomas Browne, of Lichfield, "corvizer," appraised the goods of Thomas Rutter, the Lichfield tanner, of whom Michael Johnson said that when he "Lay on His death Bead, He requested His friends that came to take their last leave of Him to speake to me to continue my buisness with his wife and sone" (my book, p. 215). Reference to these three inventories showed that the signatures of Thomas Browne, which I reproduce below in order of date, were practically identical; and that they bore a very strong resemblance to the signature to the will. Mr. A. T. Marston is confident that they were written by the testator of 1717. Mr. J. Paul

Tho: Browne
Tho: Browne
Tho: Browne

Rylands, F.S.A., to whose opinion on such a question I am wise in attaching much value, does not feel so certain of this, but thinks that the similarity in character of the four signatures strongly suggests their all having been written by the same hand. The only essential variation, it will be noticed, is in the formation of the capital B; and it must be borne in mind that the signature to the will is thirteen years later than that to Peter Oliver's inventory. Moreover, the testator's signature is of a man "sick and weak," in his last illness. And in the three signatures of 1701, 1703, and 1704 we are able to trace a gradual change in the capital in question, which might well have continued. Putting all the evidence together, and considering the common association of Thomas Browne the schoolmaster, and the Olivers, with Dam

* Mr. Arthur T. Marston, of the Probate Office at Lichfield, tells me that this inventory is all in the handwriting of Thomas Browne.

Street; of Thomas Browne the shoemaker with the Olivers; and of Thomas Browne and Mrs. Oliver as early instructors of Samuel Johnson, I feel satisfied, bearing in mind the evidence of the signatures, that the schoolmaster of 1717 was none other than the shoemaker of 1703, especially as I find that there was not proved at Lichfield, between 1700 and 1750, the will of any Thomas Browne, except the schoolmaster, belonging to Lichfield.

This conviction has been strengthened by the discovery of the will of John Browne, of Lichfield, baker, who died in 1705,* and who was clearly the schoolmaster's brother. The inventory is signed by Thomas Browne, and though the last two letters of the surname are missing, owing to a hole in the paper, there is sufficient to show a very strong resemblance to the other signatures I have reproduced, and, what is most important, the capital B is made more in the manner of the earlier three. If John Browne were a baker, his brother Thomas might well be a shoemaker. The seal to John Browne's will bears a coat of arms, but I can make nothing of a rubbing which Mr. Marston has sent me.

The evidence of Thomas Browne's association with the Olivers, and of his having formerly lived in Dam Street, where Mrs. Oliver had her school, is doubly interesting, for it removes any doubt that might be felt as to the confectioner-lady who died in 1731 having been identical with Johnson's first instructor in English.

The register of St. Michael's shows that "Thomas Browne" was buried there on 18 Aug., 1717.

* JOHN BROWNE, of the city of Lichfield, baker. Will dated 7 May, 1705. To my dau. Sarah Browne, if she live to be 22, my lands, &c., in Handsacre. To my son Samuel Browne, if he live to be 26, my croft called Finch Croft, and the Stone Barn in Frogmorton Street, all in Lichfield. To my daus. Elizabeth Browne and Anne Browne, if they live to be 24, all my lands &c., in Yoxall. My other barn in Frogmorton Street to be sold to pay my debts. To Hannah Browne, my wife, one acre of land in Sandfield, and one acre in Boly Botham. To Thomas Bayly and Ruth his wife, John Hutchinson, and Enoch Gregg, 2/6 each. Residue to wife, and make her extrix. Overseers, brother Thomas Browne and brother-in-law Stephen Mott. To Peter and Thomas, the sons of Thomas Browne, 5/- each. Wits., John Smith, Joseph Belcher, and Robert Porter. Inventory dated 10 Sept., 1705; total, £52-2-2. Appraisers, Thomas Bayley, Tho. Browne, and Robt. Porter. Proved at Lichfield 14 Jan., 1705/6, by the sole extrix., for the education of children, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Anne Browne, all minors.

The following is a copy of the inventory, undated, which accompanies the will:—

The Inventory of the Goods of Thomas Brown, deceased

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|-----|----------|
| In y ^e Kitchin | | | | |
| One Brass Furnice | .. | .. | 01 | 00 00 |
| 1 frying pan | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 00 |
| 1 old Jack | .. | .. | .. | 00 04 00 |
| 1 Grate & fireshovell | .. | .. | .. | 00 05 00 |
| 1 Warming pan | .. | .. | .. | 00 02 06 |
| 8 Pewter dishes 10 plates | .. | .. | 01 | 00 00 |
| A parcell of old bookes | .. | .. | 00 | 05 00 |
| A Small Dresser 2 Shelves | .. | .. | 00 | 02 00 |
| 2 Small Tables | .. | .. | .. | 00 03 00 |
| 1 Old Screen and Bench | .. | .. | 00 | 02 06 |
| 6 old flag chears | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 02 |
| In y ^e Pantrey | | | | |
| 5 Small Brass Potts & Kettles | .. | .. | 00 | 10 00 |
| 2 Broken Iron Potts | .. | .. | .. | 00 03 04 |
| 1 Peal 1 Kinnell Glass Bottles & Lumber | .. | .. | .. | 00 03 00 |
| In the Seller | | | | |
| 4 Small Barrells | .. | .. | .. | 00 06 00 |
| 2 Brewing Vessells 2 Peals 1 Tun-dish | .. | .. | .. | 00 06 00 |
| In the Shop | | | | |
| 4 old chears | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 00 |
| 1 Table 2 joynt stools | .. | .. | .. | 00 02 00 |
| 2 Pewter dishes | .. | .. | .. | 00 02 00 |
| 1 Lather 1 Lanthorne | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 04 |
| 1 Kneading Truff | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 00 |
| 2 Dozen of old Trenchers | .. | .. | .. | 00 00 10 |
| Lumber in the Shop | .. | .. | .. | 00 01 00 |
| In y ^e School | | | | |
| 1 Table & old chear | .. | .. | .. | 00 05 00 |
| In y ^e near Street Chamber | | | | |
| 2 old chears 1 stool 2 old Boxes | .. | .. | 00 | 01 00 |
| In y ^e Farr Street Chamber | | | | |
| 2 Small feather beds 1 pair of bed-steds 6 Blanketts | .. | .. | 01 | 04 00 |
| In y ^e Near Chamber Backwards | | | | |
| 1 Bed Bedstids Hangings Coverlid and Blanketts | .. | .. | 01 | 04 00 |
| 1 old Trunk 1 old Coffe 1 Box | .. | .. | .. | 00 12 00 |
| 5 old Blanketts | .. | .. | .. | 00 12 00 |
| Old Sheetts & Napkins and other Linnen | .. | .. | 01 | 01 00 |
| In the near Backroom | | | | |
| One bed & bedstids Hangings & Coverlid & Small Table | .. | .. | 01 | 00 00 |
| Lumber | .. | .. | .. | 00 02 00 |
| Wareing Apparell etc. | .. | .. | .. | 01 00 00 |
| Tot. | | | *11 | 18 02 |

The will, which is in the handwriting of Michael Tilley, one of the witnesses, was proved at Lichfield on 12 Nov., 1717, by Thomas Browne, power being reserved to the other executor.

Putting all the evidence together, therefore, we find, briefly, that Thomas Browne—who always insisted upon the final—e which Boswell denied him—was a shoe-

* The figures as copied actually add up to 11*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, so that there must be a small error somewhere.

maker in Lichfield at least as early as 1701, and that he turned schoolmaster not earlier than 1703. He lived for a time in his own house in Dam Street: it was there, probably, that he carried on his business. Whether his leaving Dam Street synchronized with his becoming a dominie is not certain. It is clear that he was intimate with the Olivers, also shoemakers; and Samuel Johnson's removal from old Mrs. Oliver's care to Browne's perhaps more advanced tuition may have been by a friendly arrangement. He was ill for some three weeks or more before his death in the August of 1717, the year earlier in which Johnson seems to have entered Lichfield Grammar School. In view of his profession it is curious to observe that after his death no literature was found in the house except "a parcel of old books," in the kitchen, valued at five shillings; and that the schoolroom contained nothing but "one table and old chair," valued at a similar amount. It would seem that seats were not provided for the youthful Samuel and his fellow-pupils. Yet Browne was not a poor man: he owned a decent little property, and was able to leave his sister an annuity.

Dr. Birkbeck Hill tells us that no copy of the "spelling-book" is to be found at the British Museum or the Bodleian Library ('Boswell's Johnson,' vol. i. p. 43, foot-note). Probably it was more modest in its scope than in its dedication. Thomas Browne's signature seems neat and careful rather than scholarly. But let us hope that he falsified the universal truth of the old maxim that the cobbler should stick to his last.

It is interesting, by small discoveries such as these, piece by piece to reconstruct the early life and environment of Samuel Johnson.

The Rev. John Hunter.—In the letter to *The Times* Literary Supplement mentioned in the preceding note, I announced that the parentage of him who perhaps has the best claim to be styled "Johnson's schoolmaster" had at last been settled. In a previous foot-note (*ante*, p. 19) I alluded to Prof. Mayor's identification of John Hunter as a member of Jesus College, Cambridge, expressing some doubt of its accuracy. Sir Robert White-Thomson, acting upon my suggestion, caused a search to be made in the episcopal registers at Lichfield, which

resulted in the discovery that John Hunter, when ordained deacon at Eccleshall on 11 June, 1704, and licensed to the mastership of the Free Grammar School of Lichfield, was described as M.A. of University College. This made it quite clear that he must have been John, son of J. Hunter, of St. Albans, Herts, *pauper*, who matriculated from University College, Oxford, on 7 Nov., 1691, aged 17, and took his B.A. degree in 1695 and his M.A. in 1700. It is interesting to forge another link between Johnson and Oxford.

After I had printed my previous note on Hunter's marriages (*ante*, pp. 18-19), Mr. Bickley lighted upon a pedigree giving information of the Nortons, which he drafted about 1880 from documents in his possession. It shows — Norton as having issue, (a) William Norton, of Birmingham, ironmonger, whose original will was dated 28 Feb., 1722, and whose widow Elizabeth died before 1746, leaving a will dated 22 Oct., 1743; (b) Rev. Thomas Norton, of Warwick, whose will was dated 22 Oct., 1742; (c) John Norton, living 1722; (d) Ann Norton, died in or before 1722, first wife of the Rev. John Hunter, of Lichfield, who died in or before 1747; (e) Israel Norton, living in 1746, who married Edward Holbrooke, of Lichfield, clerk, also living in 1746; (f) Mary Norton, living 1746, wife of (? Richard) Hinckley; and (g) Sarah Norton, living 1746.

This gives us the Christian name of Hunter's first wife, of which we were ignorant. It also supplies proof of a suggestion made in my book (pp. 235, 244) that, as Edward Holbrooke's wife was named *Israel*, and as he himself in his will left legacies to the children of John Hunter by Miss Norton, it was very likely that she (*Israel*) was related to the Nortons, as John Norton, Recorder of Warwick, who died in 1635, married *Israel* (d. 1615), daughter of Thomas Woodward. It seems quite possible that Edward Norton of Warwick, the father of Mrs. Holbrooke, may have been a grandson of John Norton and Israel Woodward.

We are also enabled to speak more confidently on another point of interest. At the same references I gave a copy of an inscription in St. Mary's, Warwick, to Anne, widow of Thomas Norton (son of the aforesaid John Norton and Israel Woodward), and daughter of Henry Porter of Edgbaston: she died in May, 1698. Now as Hunter married, for his second wife, Lucy, daughter

of Henry Porter, of Birmingham; and as his first wife was evidently related to (and perhaps descended from) Thomas Norton, who married the daughter of Henry Porter, of Edgbaston; and as Lucy's brother Henry (or Harry) Porter, whose widow married Dr. Johnson, was buried as "Henry Porter of Edgbaston," though actually a mercer in Birmingham, it seems only reasonable to conclude that Hunter's two wives were related to each other, and that the Porters whose association with Dr. Johnson has made their name familiar to thousands were really descended from the family long settled at Edgbaston.

It is interesting to discover that Holbrooke, whose abilities were rated so high by the Rev. John Taylor, and who was usher at Lichfield School while Johnson was there, was brother-in-law to Hunter. Mr. Bickley's query as to the Christian name of the Mr. Hinckley who married Mary Norton is perhaps answered by the abstract I printed of Holbrooke's will, in which mention is made of Mary, widow of Richard Hinckley, and her eldest son Thomas Hinckley.*

In my book I was not able to give the parentage of Edward Holbrooke, but in the appendix (p. 19) to the second volume of Shaw's 'Staffordshire' I find a pedigree of Jevons of Sedgley in which he occurs. From this it seems that he was son of — Holbrooke by Sarah his wife (bapt. 18 Dec. 1666; buried,† a widow, "from Wolverhampton," on 11 May, 1716), daughter of Thomas Jevon, of Sedgley, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Pipe and Catherine Wyrley. Shaw says that Edward Holbrooke was buried 6 Feb., 1772, aged 70; but as he took his B.A. at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1716, his age must have been greater. It may be noted that Johnson's relative Richard Greene (1716–93), of the Lichfield Museum, married for his second wife Theodosia, daughter of William Webb by Anne, daughter of Thomas Jevon

of Sedgley, who was nephew to Holbrooke's mother.

With regard to the identity of Holbrooke's father, I find from R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's, Cambridge,' Part III. p. 16, that John, son of Edward Holbrooke, of co. Stafford, *juristæ*, born at Wolverhampton and bred there under Mr. Dawbry, was admitted sizar for Mr. Wilks on 28 June, 1718, aged 20, his tutor being Mr. Newcome. I have small doubt that this John Holbrooke, who was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London on 18 Dec., 1720 (*ibid.*, iii. 321), was identical with the Rev. Edward Holbrooke's late brother John, to whose four children he bequeathed the residue of his estate in 1772.

It is strange that the date of Anna Seward's birth never seems to have been correctly stated. Miss Elizabeth Lee in the 'D.N.B.' followed the early biographers in saying that she was born in 1747, the acceptance of which date caused me in my book (p. 239) to describe her younger sister Sarah as not more than sixteen when she became engaged to Joseph Porter. Mr. E. V. Lucas, in his 'A Swan and her Friends' (1907), describes her as having been born on 12 Dec., 1742, and baptized on 24 Dec. In the third volume of *The Reliquary* (p. 51) it is stated that she was baptized at Eyam on 23 Dec., 1742. It appears, however, that she was really born on 1 Dec., 1744,* and baptized on 28 Dec. Sir Robert White-Thomson has kindly made a copy of the entries in the Seward family Bible,† now in his possession, which I reproduce below:—

Thomas Seward was married to Elizabeth Hunter at Newton-in-the-Thistle‡ in Warwickshire on the 27th of October, 1742.

And to them was Born a Daughter on the 1st of Dec., 1744. She was baptized Anne§ on the 28th of the same Month, her Sponsors were her Uncle Norton||, her Aunt Martin,¶ and Mrs. Jackson of Burton.

To them was Born another Daughter on the 17th of March, 1746. She was baptized Sarah on the 25th of May, her Sponsors were her Uncle

* Miss Seward, writing to Mrs. Parry Price, of Chester, on 15 Oct., 1795, alludes to "the sudden death of your and my relation, Miss Hinckley, the preceding week," aged 38, giving some particulars of the family ('Letters,' iv. 113–15); and in a letter to Mrs. Childers, on 16 Aug., 1797, speaks of passing an evening with Mr. and Mrs. Rickets "at the house of our mutual relations, Mr. and Mrs. Hinckley" (*ibid.*, iv. 378).

† Presumably at Sedgley.

* 1 Dec., Old Style, was of course 12 Dec., New Style.

† The Bible is dated 1736, and at the top of the title page is written "Elizth Seward."

‡ Newton Regis.

§ "Anna," of course, was her own improvement upon plain Anne.

|| Probably her great-uncle, the Rev. Thomas Norton.

¶ Her aunt Anne Hunter had married the Rev. Samuel Martin.



ANNA SEWARD.



LUCY HUNTER.

It is interesting to discover that Hedbrook, whose abilities were rated so high by the Rev. John Taylor, and who was senior of Gilead school while Johnson was there, was brother-in-law to Hurd. Mr. Dickey's query as to the Charleston name of the Mr. Manning who married Mary Norton is perhaps answered by the account I printed of Hedbrook's will, to which mention is made of Mary, widow of Michael Manning, and her eldest son Thomas Hedbrook.

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Seward,* her Aunt Norton, and Mrs. Simpson of Lichfield.

To them was Born a Son on the 8th of April, 1747, he was privately bapized John on the 24th of the same Month, and on the 26th of the same Month he Departed this Life, and was buried in St. Peter's Church in Derby.

To them was Born a Daughter on the 30th of June, 1748. She was Baptized Jane on the 25th of July, her Sponsors were the Rev^d Mr. Barker† of Edenzor, her Aunt Martin, and Mrs. James Robinson of Lichfield. And on the 14th of Feb. following She departed this Life, and was buried in the Chancel at Eyam.

To them was Born a Daughter on the 18th of June, 1749. She was privately bapized Eliz: on the 22nd of the same Month and on the 26th She Departed this Life, and was buried in the Chancel at Eyam.

To them was Born Dead a Son on the 29th of April, 1751.

To them was Born Dead a Daughter on the 10th of October, 1753.

Sarah Seward Departed this Life, June the 13th 1764 aged Nineteen† years, two Months and Sixteen Days. She was buried in the Lady Choir of the Cathedral Church in Lichfield.

The preceding entries are in the handwriting of Canon Seward; the two following in that of Anna:—

On the last day of July, 1780, Elizth, Wife of Thomas Seward departed this Life, aged 66, and was buried in the Lady Choir of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield.

On Thursday the 4th of March, 1790 the Rev^d Thomas Seward departed this Life aged 81 and was buried in the Choir of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield by his Wife and daughters Elizabeth & Sarah Seward.

The final entry is in the handwriting of Nancy Hall, at first nurse in the family of Thomas White, of Lichfield Close, Anna's cousin, and afterwards confidential friend and servant of the family:—

On the 25th March 1809 Anna Seward departed this Life aged 65. She was buried in the Choir of the Cathedral in the family Vault.

Nancy Hall died in 1848, at Updown, Sandwich, Kent, at the house of Sir Robert's mother, Lady Harris.

Mr. E. V. Lucas concludes his 'A Swan and her Friends' thus:—

"I have not been able to ascertain where Miss Seward's remains were laid whether beside, her father or Mr. Saville. But I suspect that

the authorities saw to it that Mr. Saville's grave was not opened."

Nancy Hall's entry shows Mr. Lucas to be correct in his surmise.

Lowe, Johnson's only Rival at School.—Boswell, in his third edition, tells us that, among his hero's schoolfellows at Lichfield, "there was also Lowe, afterwards Canon of Windsor" (Boswell's 'Johnson,' ed. Birkbeck Hill, vol. i. p. 45). In the second edition, which was the last he himself revised, were added the words, "who was tutor to the present Marquis Townshend, and his brother Charles" (Boswell's 'Johnson,' ed. Percy Fitzgerald, 1891, vol. i. p. 17). A little later on he relates (Boswell's 'Johnson,' ed. Birkbeck Hill, vol. i. p. 48):—

"Talking to me once himself of his being much distinguished at school, he told me, 'they never thought to raise me by comparing me to any one; they never said, Johnson is as good a scholar as such a one; but such a one is as good a scholar as Johnson; and this was said but of one, but of Lowe;' and I do not think he was as good a scholar."

Some account of him who was reckoned Samuel Johnson's equal in scholarship at school cannot fail to interest, if only as showing what different courses in life were run by these boyish rivals. Lowe, who bore the name of Theophilus, not very uncommon in Lichfield at the period, was, like Johnson, the son of a tradesman in the city. His grandfather was Christopher Lowe, an innkeeper, who was buried at St. Chad's, Lichfield, on 9 Dec., 1705. This Christopher's wife, "Ann, the wife of Christopher Lowe in Bacon Street," had predeceased him, being buried at St. Chad's on 9 Sept., 1702. From his will, dated 20 March, 1703/4,* it appears that he had two sons,

* CHRISTOPHER LOWE, the elder, of the city of Lichfield, innholder. Will dated 20 March, 1703/4. To my dau. Margret Hand, 100*l*. and the house, &c., in Bacon Street, occupied by Richard Wilkin. To my son, Christopher Lowe, 100*l*. and my new barn and garden in Bacon Street aforesaid, now in my own possession. To my son, George Lowe, my house in Gay Lane, with the croft now in the possession of Samuel Hinton, Esq., and Thomas Woodcock. To my mother, Isabel Richards, 50*s*. yearly for life. I give 5*l*. to be put forth and 5*s*. paid yearly to five of the poorest housekeepers in Bacon Street, such as have not alms from the parish. To Ann Freeman, my servant, 5*l*. To my granddaughter, Theophila Hand, my house at Greenhill for the term of my lease. To my grandchild, Christopher Lowe, the half acre of land I bought of John Clifton, lying in Seedy Field. To my son, Christopher Lowe, the remainder of my lease

* Canon Seward had a brother Benjamin, who was admitted a pensioner of St. John's, Cambridge, on 2 Nov., 1721 (R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's,' Part III. p. 31).

† Writing on 6 Sept., 1783, Miss Seward speaks of having "passed one day at Edenzor, with good Mr. Barker" ('Letters,' ii. 75).

‡ If she was born in 1746 the age should be eighteen.

Christopher and George, and one daughter, Margaret, Mrs. Hand. Of George I know nothing, except that Bridget, daughter of George Lowe, was baptized at St. Chad's on 16 Dec., 1716, and buried there on 15 June, 1717; while one bearing his names was sheriff of the city in 1713 (Harwood's 'Lichfield,' p. 431).

Christopher the younger was a plumber (R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's College, Cambridge,' part iii. p. 46). He seems to have died in early manhood, as administration of his estate was granted to his widow in 1721.*

Theophilus Lowe appears to have been a little older than his famous rival, for when he was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, on 21 June, 1725, he was described as aged seventeen, son of Christopher Lowe, plumber, and born at Lichfield. He was admitted sizar for Dr. Baker, his tutor being Mr. Williams (Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's,' part iii. p. 46). He graduated B.A. in 1728, and M.A. in 1732. On 24 Sept., 1732, he was ordained deacon and licensed to the curacy of Witherley, co. Leicester, by the Bishop of Lincoln, who ordained him priest a little later, on 24 Dec. He was admitted a Fellow of his College on 13 March, 1732/3 (*ibid.*, part iii. p. 390).

It would probably be soon after this that Lowe entered Lord Townshend's family as a tutor. George Townshend, afterwards the first Marquess Townshend, was born on 28 Feb., 1724,† while his brother Charles, later to become the brilliant statesman, was only eighteen months younger (Burke's 'Peerage' and 'D.N.B.'). The boy's father, Charles, third Viscount Townshend (1700-67), presented Lowe to the rectories of Merton

and Stiffkey, in Norfolk, in 1736; the institution taking place on 22 Oct. (Scott's 'Admissions,' part iii. p. 390). His fellowship at St. John's was filled up again in March, 1737 (*ibid.*). He was appointed a Canon of Windsor, by patent dated 21 March, 1748/9 (Le Neve's 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ,' ed. T. Duffus Hardy, 1854, vol. iii. p. 409). On 11 May, 1764, he was appointed Perpetual Curate of St. Bennet Fincke, in the city of London, by the Dean and Chapter of Windsor (Hennessey's 'Novum Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochiale Londiniense,' 1898, p. 377). He died, in enjoyment of all these preferments, on 30 May, 1769, at Mr. Townshend's house at the Admiralty, as noted in *The Cambridge Chronicle* for 3 June, 1769 (Scott's 'Admissions,' p. 390).

There are three references to Theophilus Lowe in Nichols's 'Literary Anecdotes' (i. 558, ii. 532, and iv. 406), but they all only refer to college elections. On 5 Sept., 1761, he married his friend Thomas Newton, Bishop of Bristol, to a second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John, Viscount Lisburne, and widow of the Rev. Mr. Hand, the marriage taking place in Norfolk ('The Works of Bishop Newton, with some Account of his Life,' &c., vol. i. p. 63). Thomas Newton was a native of Lichfield, educated under Hunter, and a friend of Johnson's. Newton had a great regard for Lowe, who was one of his principal Lichfield friends; he described him as "a man of strong understanding improved by reading, a most ready writer of letters, happy in a perpetual flow of spirits, of an amiable, benevolent, generous temper, and without any fault but that of being too warm and positive in politics" (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 23). There seems nothing to show that Lowe ever did anything striking or original. A cultured and amiable cleric, his life was uneventful and probably prosperous. As a scholar he may have been Johnson's equal at school; but he did not rival him in the possession of those qualities which make for greatness.

Lowe appears to have left no issue, for in his will, made the year before his death, he mentions no one but his wife.* Of her, I know nothing.

of the house I live in. To my son, George Lowe, the remainder of my lease of the Moggs. Residue to my son, George Lowe, whom I appoint executor. Wits., Tho. Barbor, Mary Barbor and Mich. Baker. Inventory dated 6 Dec., 1705; total, 443*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* Appraisers, Martin Bromsgrove and Tho. Henney. Proved at Lichfield, 26 Dec., 1705, by the sole exor.

* CHRISTOPHER LOWE, of the parish of St. Chad's *alias* Stowe, in the city of Lichfield. Admon. granted at Lichfield, 3 July, 1721, to Elizabeth Lowe, of the Close, Lichfield, widow, the relict of the said decd. Sureties, John Hodgkins, of the Close aforesaid, husbandman, and Simon Rowley, of Lichfield, husbandman. Inventory dated 17 May, 1721; total, 108*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* Appraisers, Thomas Tibbetts and Geo. Lowe.

† He was educated at Eton, and entered his tutor's college on 21 Feb., 1740/1 (Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's,' part iii. p. 100).

* THEOPHILUS LOWE, Canon or Prebendary of the Collegiate Church of Windsor, Berks., and Rector of Sifkey (*sic*) and Merston, co. Norfolk, clerk. Will dated 4 Aug., 1768. Universal legatee and executrix, my wife Elizabeth. Wits., E. Greenacre, Edmund Piper and John Piper.

"Parson" Ford.—In the account I gave in my book (pp. 158–68) of the "Parson" I omitted the following extract which Croker quotes from *The Historical Register* for 1731 (Croker's 'Boswell,' 1890, p. 9):—

Died Aug. 22, the Rev. Mr. Ford, well known to the world for his great wit and abilities.

I do not find this myself in *The Historical Register*.

Richard Wakefield, Johnson's Godfather.—In my book, when giving detailed particulars of Richard Wakefield (pp. 227–9), I treated it as a point not actually proved, whether his godson Samuel Johnson, to whom he left 5*l.* by his will made in 1733, was really identical with the Doctor. I find that there cannot be the smallest doubt on the point, for Croker was told by Thomas Harwood (1767–1842), the historian of Lichfield, that Richard Wakefield was one of Dr. Johnson's godfathers (Croker's 'Boswell,' 1890, p. 813). In this, as in other similar instances, I have suffered for believing that Dr. Birkbeck Hill had at least made full use of the material that lay to his hand, which it appears was very far from being the case.

Original documents relating to Dr. Johnson's kinsfolk.—In concluding this collection

Proved 23 June, 1769, in P.C.C. [Bogg 215], by Elizabeth Lowe the relict and executrix. On 14 Dec., 1815, a commission was issued to Thomas Howe, of Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex, gent., a person on that behalf named by the Rt. Hon. Charles Frederick Powlett, Lord Bayning, in as far as his right to messuages, &c., in Ringland, co. Norfolk, and elsewhere, was concerned; the same was purchased by Charles Townshend and the residue of 1,000 years therein granted became invested in said decd., by indenture dated 17 Jan., 1756. The said Eliz. Lowe made her will and appointed Thomas and Edward Chamberlayne, and Edward Case, exors. of her will. Thomas Chamberlayne

of notes, for the rather formless and disconnected character of which I must apologize, I may add that all the original documents in my possession relating to the Doctor's kindred, and used by me in the compilation of my book, were, soon after its issue, presented by me to the City Council of Lichfield for exhibition in the Birthplace, as recorded in *The Times* and other newspapers for 13 Dec., 1906. For their display and safe-keeping the Johnson House Committee provided a glass-topped oak case, which occupies one side of the small breakfast-room upstairs. Among the documents are all the papers relating to Michael Johnson's indictment in 1718 for trading as a tanner, including his own rough draft for the defence; the statement for counsel in 1732 dealing with the financial affairs of the late "Parson" Ford; the correspondence between Thomas Shepperd and William Priest as to the proposed arrest of Andrew Johnson; the letter written by the Doctor's uncle Samuel Ford in 1731; the deed dated 1707 relating to the fulfilment of certain of the marriage articles of Michael Johnson and Sarah Ford; and the letter addressed to Michael Johnson in 1718 by a Walsall tradesman, together with deeds and other writings of a more purely genealogical interest.

survived the other exors., and appointed his wife Catherine Chamberlayne sole extrix.; she afterwards married the Right Hon. Horace, Lord Walpole, and died intestate. [It appears from G. E. C.'s 'Complete Peerage' that Horatio Walpole, afterwards second Earl of Orford, married, secondly, 28 July, 1806, Catherine, widow of the Rev. Edward Chamberlaine, Rector of Charlton, and dau. of — Tunstall. Yet in *Gent.'s Mag.* for August, 1789, pt. ii. p. 763, I find in the list of those who had died lately: "At Charlton, Kent, the Rev. Tho. Chamberlayn, late rector of that church, to which he was presented in 1752."]

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

P. 8. Right-hand column, near bottom, for "July last," read "July, 1907."

P. 14. The Rev. Samuel Pearson (1647-1727) was not an M.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge. Samuel Pearson of that College entered 23 March, 1654/5, aged eighteen, and was son of Nicholas Pearson, of Beverley, Yorks, decd. (J. E. B. Mayor's 'Admissions to St. John's,' pt. i. p. 119). My man must be identical with the Samuel Pearson who was B.A. of King's College, Cambridge, in 1671, and M.A. in 1675.

"Merival," where J. B. Pearson was born in 1749, lies at the east end of the "Stone Bridge," at Shrewsbury.

From Mayor's 'Admissions to St. John's,' pt. ii., I learn (p. 162) that J. B. Pearson's uncle, Samuel Pearson, was born at Shrewsbury, and bred there under Mr. Lloyd; that he was admitted sizar for Mr. Langford on 22 April, 1702, aged seventeen, his tutor and surety being Mr. Orchard; while J. B. Pearson's father, James Pearson, was also born at Shrewsbury, educated there under Mr. Lloyd, and admitted sizar for *Dominus* Baker on 24 May, 1704, aged sixteen, his tutor and surety being Mr. Bosville (*ibid.*, pp. 170-71): he became incumbent of St. Julian's, Shrewsbury, in 1720 (*ibid.*, Notes, p. lxxix),

John Batteridge Pearson was admitted to St. John's on 30 June, 1766 (as John Pearson of Salop), having been examined and approved by Mr. Newling; Mr. Frampton was his tutor and surety (R. F. Scott's 'Admissions to St. John's,' pt. iii. p. 173). His elder brother, Samuel Pearson, having been examined and approved by Mr. Newling, was admitted a pensioner on 5 July, 1765, his sponsor and surety being Mr. Frampton (*ibid.*, p. 171). He became Perpetual Curate of Osmaston, co. Derby, and Rector of Weston-upon-Trent; while for some time he was Rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham. He died at Birmingham on 13 June, 1811, aged sixty-five, when he was one of the oldest members of the Antiquarian Society. He was buried by his brother at Croxall,

but there is a monument to his memory in Osmaston Church (*ibid.*, p. 708).

P. 17. In *The European Magazine* for 1783, pt. ii. p. 126, I have found an account of the Rev. John Moir, who later on occupied Johnson's house in Bolt Court. It follows a very favourable review of a biography by him of Charles James Fox, and is headed 'Anecdotes of the Author,' opening thus:—

"The author of this piece of political biography is supposed to be the Rev. Mr. John Moir, of the Borough of Southwark, who has the charge of a curacy in the city of London, besides a lectureship. It was his fate to be born in Scotland, though his parents were both from England. In his early years he received his education among the religious sect of the *Seceders*.... But the whining cant, the hypocrisy and nonsense of that absurd sect, appeared to the liberal and penetrating genius of our author, in the most odious and disgusting light. And, although his parents and kindred were Seceders, and his only brother is a great gun of the Gospel, according to a familiar phrase among these sectaries, at the age of sixteen he burst the fetters of early prejudices,"

and made such rapid progress in the acquirement of knowledge that "certain very good judges of human nature" were made to doubt if the time spent by ordinary youths on the study of the dead languages were not wasted, and to ask to be shown "one of his years who has more learning, among all those who started at eight or ten," than Moir, who, after studying divinity at Edinburgh and being licensed as a preacher, was, "obedient to the hand of divine providence," led to England, where he entered the English Church.

"He, as yet, may be said to have only entered on the ladder ecclesiastic. But he will rise higher, if genius, learning, assiduity in his profession, and the most inoffensive manners, can be of any weight as recommendations to church preferment."

After giving some particulars of his literary work, the article thus concludes:—

"The most singular trait in Mr. Moir's character, is a happy union of the strictest piety, with great festivity and good humour. Although he will not so much as take a draught of water without asking a blessing, and returning thanks,

there is not a more pleasing companion in the universe. He however, who presuming on the gaiety of his temper, should utter anything indecent in his presence, would quickly feel the lash of his resentment; and some severe *witticism* would make him repent his rashness. He is particularly entertaining, when he enters on the subject of the folly and hypocrisy of his *quondam* associates the Seceders. He has such an original store of laughable anecdotes concerning those strange and ridiculous mortals, as would make up a very decent quarto volume."

Altogether, when we have come to the end of this eulogium, we feel that the Rev. John Moir must have been a most nauseating individual, a very prince of prigs, and we wonder whether the article is not a striking instance of self-portraiture producing an impression quite opposite to what the artist intended.

P. 19. Left hand column, foot-note, read

"*The Times Literary Supplement* for 16 January, 1908."

P. 20. First paragraph. As Mrs. Seward was baptized on 26 Dec., 1712 (see p. 40) she must have been at least sixty-seven at her death, and in 1731 about eighteen.

P. 26. A correspondent kindly points out to me that in the Trentham registers (which have been printed by the Staffordshire Parish Register Society) is recorded the marriage at Sheriffhales, on 9 (? 29) Sept., 1677, of George Plaxton, Vicar of Sheriffhales, to Alice Parratt, of Trentham.

On 9 Oct., 1720, occurs the burial of George Plaxton, M.A., Rector of Berwick-in-Elmet, aged seventy-three. This shows that Hearne (see *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. x. 504) was wrong in writing on 20 Nov., 1720, that Plaxton had died "about half a year since."

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

PLATE I. (facing p. 6).—These two views of the Manwoods, Handsworth, the house built by Dr. Johnson's great-uncle, Henry Ford (see p. 6), were kindly taken for me on 14 April, 1909, by Mr. G. Wood, jun., through the instrumentality of Mr. Arnold G. Burt, the chief librarian of Handsworth. The upper view is taken from a point almost north-east of the house, on the south bank of the river Tame. The lower view shows the south aspect of the house.

PLATE II. (facing p. 10).—The portrait of Anna Seward's mother, Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. John Hunter, Johnson's dreaded schoolmaster, is from an oil painting, measuring 30 in. by 24 in., in the possession of Sir Robert White-Thomson, to whose kindness I owe photographs of five of the portraits in this book, with permission to reproduce them. "H. Pickering pinxit 1755" is inscribed within an oblong disc painted at the left-hand lower corner of the picture. Sir Robert rightly calls attention to the beautiful painting of the lace collar and satin dress. Elizabeth Hunter, who married the Rev. Thomas Seward in 1742 (see p. 34), was baptized at St. Mary's, Lichfield, on 26 Dec., 1712, and died on 31 July, 1780. This portrait has never been reproduced before.

The portrait of the Rev. Henry White, cousin of Anna Seward and recipient of Johnson's confession of his penance at Uttoxeter (see p. 11), is from a large miniature pastel, measuring 7 in. by 5 in., in the possession of Sir Robert White-Thomson, which also has never been reproduced before. At the back of the picture is the inscription, "Lucas Bateman Pinx, Sep. 1779." Henry White was baptized at Lichfield Cathedral on 17 May, 1761, and died on 8 April, 1836, being buried in the cathedral, where there is an inscription to his memory. Sir Robert possesses portraits of his great-uncle at later dates, but this one represents him more as he must have appeared when Johnson made him his confidant. See his mother's portrait, Plate VI.

PLATE III. (facing p. 14).—This portrait of the Rev. John Batteridge Pearson (1749–1808), Lucy Porter's friend (see pp. 13, 14), to whom she bequeathed her not inconsiderable estate, is from the original oil painting in the possession of his grandson, Mr. Pennant (see p. 16), which measures 29 in. by 24½ in., sight size. In order to get a better reproduction of the portrait I have cut off about 7 in. at the bottom, 4½ in. at the left-hand side, and 3 in. at the right-hand side. Nothing appears in the portions cut off except part of Mr. Pearson's right hand in the left-hand lower corner. I am indebted to Mr. Pennant for having had the picture photographed; it is, of course, now reproduced for the first time. The painter of the portrait, which seems to represent Mr. Pearson in early manhood, is not known.

PLATE IV. (facing p. 16).—This portrait of Dr. Johnson's step-son, Capt. Jervis Henry Porter (1718–1763), R.N., from whom Lucy Porter derived her fortune, is from the oil painting alluded to on p. 16, the property of Col. G. F. Pearson, though hanging at Castle Camps Rectory. I am indebted to Mr. Pennant for procuring a photograph of the portrait, which, as may be guessed, is very dark. It measures 49 in. by 40 in., sight size, and has never been reproduced before. As stated at the above reference, it was attributed by George Richmond to one of Hogarth's pupils. The ship in the distance is, no doubt, H.M.S. Hercules, of 74 guns, which Capt. Porter commanded for some years before his death (see account of him in my book, pp. 236–8).

I have very slightly reduced the picture by cutting narrow strips off the top and bottom, and the right-hand side.

PLATE V. (facing p. 24).—This picture of the Manor House, Trysull, where the infant Johnson was taken by his mother in 1711 to stay with her cousin, Mrs. Harriotts (see p. 22), is reproduced from a faded photograph kindly lent to me by Miss Smythe of



SARAH SEWARD.



Trysull, one of the daughters of the late Col. Thomas Smythe, who tells me that it was taken between 1873 and 1879.

The exterior of the house was renovated during 1889 and 1890, the two front gables being tiled and the porch made to resemble half-timbered work, so that its outward appearance now gives no indication of its age.

PLATE VI. (facing p. 34).—The portrait of Anna Seward is one that has not been reproduced before. It is from a miniature, measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., in the possession of Sir Robert White-Thomson (see p. 11), who describes it as a very delicate work on ivory. The artist, Jeremiah Meyer (1735–1789), was a well-known painter of miniatures. Its date is fixed at about 1777 (when she would be some thirty-two years of age) by the following extract from a letter she wrote on 2 March, 1796 ('Letters,' iv., 174):—

"I sat for a miniature to Smart, twenty-five years ago. He was esteemed eminent, and I sat to Miers [*sic*] six years after, of whom Mr. Hayley has beautifully and justly said, in his poetic Epistles on Painting,

"His magic pencil in its narrow space,
Pours the full portion of uninjur'd grace."

Miers took immense pains with my picture; he made it a very fine one, but he did not make it like; and Smart's had still less resemblance. Both of them were long since given away."

As Meyer's miniature was left in Anna's will to Mrs. Thomas White (*née* Mary Remington) it is clear that it must have been returned to her.

In letters dated 29 Jan., 1789, and 4 Feb., 1789, Miss Seward pays high tribute to Meyer's memory ('Letters,' ii. 221, 235).

The portrait of Lucy, daughter of the Rev. John Hunter, and afterwards wife of the Rev. Thomas White of Lichfield, is

from a pastel, measuring 20 in. by $15\frac{1}{2}$ in. in the possession of her great-grandson, Sir Robert White-Thomson, and now reproduced for the first time. In the upper left-hand corner it is thus signed:—"Saunders pinxit No. 1921, Lichfield, January 6th, 1752." From the account of John Sanders (1750–1825), or Saunders, painter, in the 'D.N.B.' I learn that his father, John Saunders, was a "pastel painter of merit, who practised at Norwich, Stourbridge in Worcestershire, and elsewhere." No doubt this elder Saunders was the painter of Lucy Hunter.

Lucy Hunter was baptized 22 July, 1729, at St. Mary's, Lichfield, and married on 15 June, 1755, at Lichfield Cathedral. She died 19 May, 1813, aged eighty-four, at the "Old Residentiary House," Lichfield Close. It is interesting to think that she was niece to Harry Porter, the first husband of Dr. Johnson's "Tetty"; and half-sister of Mrs. Seward (see Plate II.). See her son's portrait, Plate II.

PLATE VII. (facing p. 40).—This charming portrait of Anna Seward's younger sister Sarah (1746–1764), whose engagement to Dr. Johnson's step-son, Joseph Porter of Leghorn, was followed by her early death (see pp. 11 and 35), is from an oil portrait in the possession of Sir Robert White-Thomson, measuring 30 in. by 24 in., and signed "T. Kettle, 1762." It is a pendant to the portrait of Anna, also painted by Tilly Kettle (1740?–1786) in 1762, which forms a frontispiece to the first volume of her 'Letters.' It will be noticed that Anna is apparently about to dictate, while Sarah, pen in hand, is all attention, ready to write down her sister's words. This portrait also has never been reproduced before.

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